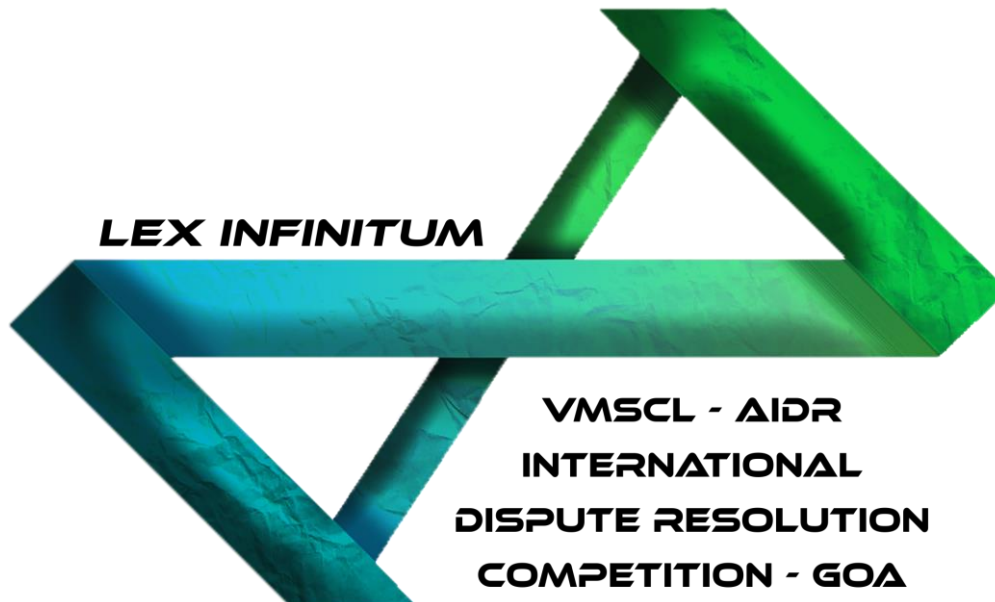


VMSCL - AIDR
LEX INFINITUM 2021 - INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE
RESOLUTION COMPETITION

Guidelines & Rules



21st February 2021 – 27th February 2021

ONLINE COMPETITION

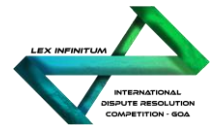
FOREWORD – LEX INFINITUM 2021 RULEBOOK

The excessive application of the word ‘unprecedented’ in the last few decades, to events ranging from an increase in taxes to a decrease in rainfall, has caused in quite a lot of people the inability to grasp the seriousness of an actual disaster. If there ever was a situation in recent times that demanded to be described as unprecedented, it would have to be the COVID-19 pandemic that millions of people around the world are currently fighting. As much as V.M. Salgaocar College of Law would love to have the Participants and Assessors in Goa, India, where Lex Infinitum had been a grand success for the last 5 years, having a competition involving physical meetings of people from various places is inadvisable, in the best interests of everyone involved. For this reason, the V.M. Salgaocar College of Law and the Association for International Dispute Resolution (AIDR) have decided to conduct the 6th edition of the Lex Infinitum - International Dispute Resolution Competition, 2021 in an online format on the ZOOM platform. All the technical aspects of the Competition are addressed in this Rulebook, as well as in the Zoom Manual, which is available on the Lex Infinitum website.

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1. DEFINITIONS

The terms and phrases used in this Rulebook shall have the meanings as defined hereunder, unless specified otherwise in a particular Rule:

- a) “Application Forms” refers to the forms for Negotiating Teams and Mediators respectively, as provided on the Official Website.
- b) “Applicant Teams” refers to all Negotiating Teams and Mediators which duly fill the Application Forms.
- c) “Breakout Rooms” refers to the online meeting rooms on the Zoom Platform to be used for the Confidential Information and Caucus Breakout Sessions, which are explained in Rule 5.5.
- d) “Competition” refers to the Lex Infinitum: International Dispute Resolution Competition, 2021.
- e) “Competition Problem” refers to a problem framed by the Problem Committee, to be used in the Competition Sessions.
- f) “Competition Room” refers to the online meeting room on the Zoom Platform which shall be used for the conduct of a Main Round.
- g) “Competition Session” refers to each round of the Competition, which involves four primary stages - the Confidential Information Session, the Main Round, Scoring, and Feedback.

- h)** “Competition Session Participants” refers to the members of the two Negotiating Teams, and one Mediator who are being assessed in the Competition Session.
- i)** “Confidential Information” refers to the key points of information provided to Negotiating Teams regarding the party they represent [Requesting or Responding Party], and each Team involved in a particular Competition Session shall have different Confidential Information.
- j)** “Confidential Information Session” refers to the time period in which Negotiating Teams are provided access to Confidential Information.
- k)** “Current Academic Year” refers to the Academic Year 2020-2021.
- l)** “Feedback” refers to the critique provided by Expert Assessors to the Competition Session Participants, in relation to each of their performances in the Main Round.
- m)** “Host Institution” refers to V.M. Salgaocar College of Law.
- n)** “Institution/s” refers to all Colleges and Universities around the world.
- o)** “Main Round” refers to the stage of Competition Session immediately following the Confidential Information Session, where the Selected Teams are tasked to negotiate/mediate, as the case may be, on the basis of a specified Competition Problem.

- p) “Mediator” refers to a participant designated as a Mediator.
- q) “Negotiating Team” refers to a team comprising of two participants - one Counsel and one Client - from the same institution.
- r) “Official Website” refers to the official website of the Competition, www.lexinfinitum.in.
- s) “Registration Fee” refers to the fee to be paid by Selected Teams for participation in the competition.
- t) “Rule” refers to a particular individual rule contained in this Rulebook, along with the sub-rules/ points thereunder.
- u) “Rules” collectively refers to the rules contained in this Rulebook.
- v) “Session Supervisor” refers to member/s of the Host Institution designated as such, in charge of overseeing the smooth conduct of every Competition Session.
- w) “Scoring” refers to the marks assigned by Expert Assessors to Competition Session Participants for their performance in the Main Round, in accordance with Rules 8 and 9.
- x) “Selected Teams” refers to Applicant Teams selected to participate in the Competition Rounds of Lex Infinitum 2021, who have completed the Final Registration and paid the Registration Fees *per* Rule 4.1.4 and 4.1.5.

y) “Team ID” refers to the unique identification code assigned to a team, upon compliance with the procedure in Rule 4.1.5.

2. GENERAL

2.1. The Sixth Edition of Lex Infinitem: International Dispute Resolution Competition, 2021, organized by V.M. Salgaocar College of Law in collaboration with AIDR (Association for International Dispute Resolution) will be held online on the Zoom platform from **21st - 27th February, 2021.**

2.2. All of the Rules contained herein are mandatory in nature, and penalties for non-compliance, where existent, are provided for in the relevant Rule/s.

2.3. A Technical Orientation regarding the Zoom Platform will be held on 21st February, 2021, and the Negotiation and Mediation Training Sessions will be held on 22nd February, 2021, which is compulsory for Selected Teams to attend. The Competition Rounds of Lex Infinitem 2021 will last for five consecutive days – from 23rd to 27th February 2021. Information about all the events and activities being organized as a part of the Competition is contained in the schedule available on the Official Website.

2.4. For Competition Sessions, Teams mediate Competition Problems complemented by Confidential Information (hereinafter “CI”). The Negotiating Teams will compete in Two Preliminary Rounds which are followed by the “Quarter Final,” the “Semi-final” and “Final”.

2.5. The Mediator will compete in two Preliminary Rounds, which is followed by the “Semi- Final”, and the “Mediation Final”. (The Semi Final Round for Negotiating Teams shall be the Final Round for Mediators).

3. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

3.1. ELIGIBILITY OF TEAMS

3.1.1. The Competition is open to *bonafide* students of any stream who are:

- A. Enrolled in any undergraduate course at Institutions worldwide, AND
- B. Are registered in their respective Institutions as full-time / part-time students / exchange students for the Current Academic Year.

3.1.2. The ‘Counsel’ Member of a Negotiating Team shall be a law student; while the other Team member may be from any stream of that Institution.

3.1.3. The member applying as a Mediator may be from any stream of the respective Institution.

3.1.4. Each Institution can enter either one or both of the following:

- One Negotiating Team
- One Mediator

3.1.5. If a University is sending any teams as stipulated in Rule 3.1.4, the members of the respective teams may be from different colleges affiliated with the University. However, if a specific College is sending any such teams, all students need to be from the same College.

3.2. TEAM COMPOSITION

3.2.1. Each Negotiating Team shall comprise of two participants - 1 Counsel and 1 Client respectively.

3.2.2. The Negotiating Teams shall indicate which Participants are designated as Client and Counsel at the time of completing the Final Registration, as specified in Rule 4.14.

3.2.3. Each Negotiating Team and Mediator is permitted to have one Technical Assistant respectively, who may be a student/ IT professional from the same institution. The name of the Technical Assistant, if any, shall be specified at the time of filling the Application Form.

3.2.4. The designation of Participants as ‘Client’, ‘Counsel’, ‘Mediator’ and ‘Technical Assistant’ will remain unchanged throughout the Competition.

3.2.5. The role of the Technical Assistant of an Applicant Team will be liaising with the Volunteers and/or IT personnel of the Host institution, in case of any technical or other difficulties at the concerned team’s end, or with the competition platform generally. However, there shall be no communication between the team and TA during the Competition Sessions otherwise than for the above-mentioned purpose.

3.3. COACH

3.3.1 Each Team may register up to one Coach who may be:

- a) A Professor [Full-time or Adjunct] from their Institution, OR
- b) A Qualified Lawyer, OR
- c) An ADR Professional

3.3.2 The name of the Coach, if any, shall be indicated in the Form/s filled by the Applicant Team. The registered Coach alone will be permitted to interact with his/her Team during the preparation time, including the time after the distribution of CI. The teams shall not communicate with anyone other than the Team's registered Coach after the distribution of CI.

3.3.3 During the Main Round of a Competition Session, the Teams shall not communicate with anyone except the other indicated Negotiating Team and the indicated Mediator.

3.3.4 The Coaches may attend and observe the Competition Sessions involving their Team but will not be allowed to communicate with anyone while the Competition Session is in progress.

3.3.5 A Coach shall not be a person who is attending Lex Infinitum 2021 as an Expert Assessor, nor has attended Lex Infinitum as a participant in the last two years.

4. APPLICATION, SELECTION OF TEAMS AND FEES

4.1. APPLICATION AND SELECTION OF TEAMS

The Selection of Teams for the Competition involves three stages:

4.1.1. Application by the Teams,

4.1.2. Selection Process by the Selection Committee, and

4.1.4. Final Registration by Selected Teams.

4.1.1 For the Application by the Teams, all applications must be fully completed and registered online by the Applicant Teams on the Official Website - www.lexinfinitum.in. The deadline for Application by the Teams is **30th November 2020, 23:59 Indian Standard Time.**

4.1.2 For the Selection Process, The Selection Committee, consisting of V.M. Salgaocar College of Law and the Advisory Committee, will shortlist a total of 36 Teams out of all the Applicant Teams that have successfully completed the Application by the abovementioned deadline.

4.1.3 The Selection Process is entirely within the discretionary power of the Selection Committee, and any decision taken by the Selection Committee shall be considered as final. The names of the Selected Teams will be communicated to them through email on **15th December 2020.**

4.1.4 The Selected Teams will have time till **23rd December 2020, 23:59 Indian Standard Time,** to complete the Final Registration according to the instructions sent to the Selected Teams through email and pay the Registration

Fee [as specified in Rule 4.2]. The Selected Negotiating Teams will have to specify the designations of ‘Client’ and ‘Counsel’, in accordance with the instructions sent to them.

4.1.5 Upon completion of the Final Registration and payment of the Registration Fee within the stipulated time limit, the Registration of the Team concerned as a participant in the Competition shall be confirmed, and such Team will be assigned a Team ID.

4.1.6 A Selected Team’s failure in completing the Final Registration, and/or failing to pay the whole or any part of the Registration Fee will forfeit the spot of such selected Team in the Competition.

4.1.7 In the event of a selected Team forfeiting its participation in Lex Infinitum 2021, the Selection Committee may, entirely within its discretionary power, replace the said Selected Team and offer participation to any other Applicant Team which has successfully completed its Applications *per* Rule 4.1.1.

4.1.8 In addition to the completion of Final Registration as stated above, Selected Teams must mandatorily attend the Training Sessions [Negotiating Teams Training Session, mandatory for Negotiating Teams; and the Mediator Training Session, mandatory for Mediators] being held on 22nd February 2020. If a Selected Team fails to attend the Training Session applicable to it, its participation in the Competition may be forfeited by the Host Institution.

4.2. REGISTRATION FEES

Registration Fees will have to be paid by the Selected Teams within the deadline/s stipulated in Rule 4.1.4.

4.2.1 Registration Fee - International Teams:

The Registration Fees for Applicant teams from Institutions outside India are as follows:

- International Negotiating Team [Two-member team] - **\$100/- USD**
- International Mediator [One-member team] - **\$50/- USD**
- No separate fees shall be charged for the Coach registered by the Teams, if any.

4.2.2 Registration Fee - National Teams

The Registration fees for Applicant Teams from Institutions in India are as follows:

- National Negotiating Team [Two-member team] - **INR 5000/-**
- National Mediator [One-member team] - **INR 2500/-**
- No separate fees shall be charged for the Coach registered by the Teams, if any.

5. COMPETITION SESSIONS

5.1. LANGUAGE

5.1.1 The language that will be followed during the course of all the events and Competition Sessions of Lex Infinitum 2021 is English.

5.1.2 The use of any other language besides English is forbidden especially during Workshops and all Competition Sessions. During Competition Sessions, the Negotiators of the same Negotiation Team are allowed to talk in other languages only during their breaks.

5.2 TEAM PARTICIPATION IN COMPETITION SESSIONS

5.2.1 Three Teams will participate in one Competition Session: Negotiating Teams from two Selected Teams (the Requesting and Responding Parties respectively), and a Mediator from a third Selected Team.

5.2.2 The Team Members of a Negotiating Team must be physically present in the same room for the purpose of participating in a Competition Session. The Technical Assistant of a Negotiating Team/Mediator, if any, must also be physically present in the same room with the concerned Team.

5.2.3 During the Confidential Information Session, the Coach of a Team, if any, must also be physically present in the same room.

5.2.4 For the Preliminary Rounds, the Organizing Committee, will assign the Negotiating Teams and Mediator for each Competition Session and decide the

roles of the Negotiating Teams (Requesting or Responding Party). To avoid any conflict of interest, the Mediators will not be assigned to Competition Sessions in which any Negotiating Team belongs to the same Institution as that of the Mediator.

5.2.5 For the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals Round and Final Round, the fixtures will be decided on the basis of draw of lots.

5.2.6 The Final Round of the Negotiation Competition will be mediated by the Professional Mediator selected by the Host Institution from the Expert Assessors.

5.3 COMPETITION SESSION TIMINGS

5.3.1 The schedule for the competition rounds will be available on the Official Website. All timings specified therein are in Indian Standard Time [IST].

5.3.2 A Competition Session begins immediately after the Confidential Information [“CI”] is provided to the Negotiating Teams involved, and ends after the Competition Session Participants receive feedback from the judges.

5.3.3 Each Competition Session will last for 120 minutes, and consists of the following stages:

- a) Access to CI – 30 minutes
- b) Gap between CI Session and Main Round – 10 minutes
- c) Main Round – 60 minutes [including Caucus, Breaks etc.]
- d) Scoring by Expert Assessors – 10 minutes
- e) Feedback for Session Participants – 10 minutes

5.3.4 Any time reserved to deal with technical difficulties that may arise in the course of a Competition Session, such as that in Rule 8.1.4, will not be included in keeping the time of 120 Minutes as specified in Rule 5.3.3.

5.4 ASSESSMENT

5.4.1 Expert Assessors will be selected and assigned by the Organizing Committee to score the performance and provide feedback to the Participants to help them move through the Competition rounds and improve their mediation and negotiation skills.

5.4.2 The Organising Committee will, as far as possible, make sure that in each Competition Session, Expert Assessors do not have conflict of interests with the assigned Teams, in particular that Expert Assessors and Teams do not belong to the same Institution.

5.5 COMPETITION ROOM AND BREAKOUT ROOM

5.5.1 24 Hours prior to the start of each Competition Session, the Negotiating Team and the Mediator will receive links to the Competition Room, in which the Main Round shall be conducted.

5.5.2 In addition, each Negotiating Team involved in a Competition Session shall also receive a link to a Breakout Room - which shall be used for the Confidential Information and Caucus Breakout Sessions. For further details on how the Breakout Room will work, please refer to the Zoom Manual uploaded on the Official Website.

5.5.3 The Mediators will not receive an invite to the CI Sessions as they are not provided with any Confidential Information.

5.6 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SESSION

5.6.1 Prior to the Main Round, the Breakout Room for a Negotiating Team shall be where the CI is made available to the Team. At least 40 minutes prior to the start of the Main Round, each Negotiating Team shall join their designated Breakout Room.

5.6.2 At the scheduled time, the Confidential Information shall be revealed by the Session Supervisor present in the respective Breakout Room, and the Negotiating Teams shall have access to the CI for 30 minutes only.

5.6.3 Each Negotiating Team along with its Coach, if any, shall use the allotted CI Room to discuss the CI amongst themselves and prepare for the Main Round. The Negotiators and the Coach are not permitted to have any contact or communication whatsoever with any other person/s once the CI has been provided, save for queries that may be asked to the Session Supervisor.

5.6.4 Failure to adhere to Rule 5.6.3 will result in a penalty, which shall be decided by the Expert Assessors assessing the respective Main Round, or the Organizing Committee.

5.7 ROOM COMPOSITION DURING MAIN ROUND

5.7.1 During the Preliminary Rounds, there shall be 11 people present for each Main Round of a Competition Session - 4 negotiators [two from each Negotiating Team], 1 mediator, 2 Expert Assessors, 1 Backup Expert Assessor, 1 Timekeeper, and 2 Hosts/ Session Supervisors [1 for the Competition Room, and 1 for the Breakout Room].

5.7.2 For the Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals respectively, there shall be one additional Expert Assessor, in addition to the 11 persons specified above. For the Final of Lex Infinitum 2021, there shall be 5 Expert Assessors, making it 14 persons present in the Main Round.

5.7.3 For every Competition Session, depending on whether each Negotiating Team and Mediator has registered a Coach, the count of persons in the Competition Room may increase by 1 to 3 in number. Similarly, depending on whether each Negotiating Team and Mediator has registered a Technical Assistant, the count of persons may increase by 1 to 3 in number.

5.7.4 Coaches registered by the Session Participants, if any, are only permitted to communicate with them during the CI Session. Once a Competition Session begins, communication between a Coach and a Negotiating Team / Mediator is prohibited. This prohibition also applies during Breaks and Caucuses in the course of the Competition Session. To this end, the audio and video of the Coach/es will be switched off once a Competition Session begins.

5.8 BREAK

5.8.1 Each Negotiating Team and the Mediator may request for one Break each during every Main Round. Where any Negotiating Team or Mediator asks for a Break, both Negotiating Teams will be required to turn their audio off for the duration of the Break.

5.8.2 A Break may be for a maximum of three minutes only. The Negotiating Team/Mediator requesting the break will be responsible for adhering to the time limit. Failure will result in a penalty. The penalty will be decided by the Expert Assessors assessing the respective Main Round.

5.9 CAUCUS

5.9.1 A Caucus (i.e. a private session) may be called by a Negotiating Team or by the Mediator. The Mediator may conduct only one Caucus with each of the Negotiating Teams. Each of the Negotiating Teams can call for one Caucus only.

5.9.2 During the duration of the Main Round, the Breakout Room allotted to each Negotiating Team shall function as their Caucus Breakout Room.

5.9.3 The Competition Session Participants that are not part of the Caucus will be required to leave the Competition room during that time, and enter their respective Caucus Breakout Room, along with their Coach. The prohibition on Coach communication *per* Rule 5.7.4 will be applicable during a Caucus.

5.9.4 A Caucus may last for a maximum of 5 minutes. The Mediator will be responsible for managing the Caucus and adhering to the time limit.

5.9.5 Failure to adhere to the time limit will result in a penalty, which will be decided by the Expert Assessors assessing the respective Competition Session.

5.9.6 Caucuses shall be called for only when the Negotiating Team or the Mediator finds the need of doing so. Neither the Negotiating Team, nor the Mediator is required to call for any Caucus.

5.10 TIMEKEEPING

5.10.1 A Session Supervisor will be appointed by the Organizing Committee during the Competition Sessions to manage the overall timekeeping of each Session. The Session Supervisor's decision on timekeeping is final.

5.10.2 The Negotiating Teams and the Mediator are, however, responsible for managing their time and adhering to their time limit as according to the rules of the Competition.

5.11 REFERENCE MATERIAL, GADGETS AND HAND OUTS

5.11.1 In a Competition Session, teams are permitted only the use of personal notes and stationery items.

5.11.2 During each Competition Session, the participating Negotiating Teams and the Mediators shall use an Electronic Gadget [either a Laptop or a Desktop Computer] for the purpose of participating in a Competition Session. Any technical issues that arise in the course of such Session shall be addressed as per Rule 11.

5.11.3 Apart from the devices used for the purpose of Rule 5.11.2, the members of Competition Session participants are prohibited from using use any other Electronic Gadget that allows for any form of communication, including, but not limited to: laptops, tablets, mobile phones, smartbands, smartwatches, etc.

5.11.4 The use of calculators and watches that do not allow for any form of communication is permitted.

5.11.5 During the Confidential Information Session, each Negotiating Team may, if it deems it necessary, present one handout only to the Session Supervisor, limited to one sheet of A4 size paper (one-sided), which can include any kind of content (pictures, diagrams, graphic representations, drawings, text or others). The Mediator is not allowed to present any handout.

5.11.6 The handout supplied, if any, shall be sent by the Negotiating Team to the Session Supervisor of the Breakout Room in an electronic ‘PDF’ Format.

5.11.7 During a Main Round, on the request of a Negotiating Team which has supplied a handout in accordance with Rules 5.11.5 and 5.11.6, the Session Supervisor shall share his/her screen, which will be visible to all the persons present in the Competition Room.

5.11.8 The use of any resource and/or exhibit other than those indicated in Rules 5.11.1 - 5.11.6 is strictly prohibited. Failure to adhere to the Rules contained in Rule 5.11 will result in a penalty. The penalty will be decided by the Expert Assessors assessing the respective Main Round.

5.12 DRESS CODE

The Dress code for Lex Infinitem 2021 is Business Formal (Indian or Western).

5.13 PHOTOGRAPHY/ FILMING

5.13.1 Competition Session Participants, Coaches, and Expert Assessors are deemed to have agreed to the use of photography and videotaping by the Host Institution during the entire duration of Lex Infinitem 2021. The Main Rounds of Competition Sessions will specifically be videotaped in their entirety, for the purposes of Rule 8.1.4.

5.13.2 Competition Session Participants, Coaches, and Expert Assessors are deemed to have agreed without any reservations to the use of their photographed images / videos by the Host Institution and AIDR.

5.13.3 The Final Rounds will be live streamed by the Host Institution/ Lex Infinitem 2021 social media handle/s on social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube, and the Competition Session Participants, Coaches, and Expert Assessors are deemed to consent to this public broadcast.

5.13.4 Any special requests seeking exclusion/s to the above, may be conveyed to the Host Institution by way of an email to official@lexinfinitem.in OR teams@lexinfinitem.in, with the subject “Request for Exclusion from Photography/Filming”, no later than on the first day of the Competition.

6. COMPETITION FORMAT

6.1 PRELIMINARY ROUNDS: DAY 1 AND DAY 2

6.1.1 All Negotiating Teams and Mediators will participate in two Preliminary Rounds.

6.1.2 Preliminary Rounds 1 and 2 will consist of a total of 36 Competition Sessions, of which Round 1 will be on Day 1, and Round 2 will be on Day 2. The final Competition schedule shall be provided by the Host Institution prior to the beginning of the first Competition Session.

6.1.3 The distribution of the 36 Competition Sessions in the two Preliminary Rounds is as follows:

a) Preliminary Round 1 – 23.02.2021 – Session 1 and 2 (9 Competition Sessions per Session) = 18 Competition Sessions

b) Preliminary Round 2 – 24.02.2021 – Session 3 and 4 (9 Competition Sessions per Session) = 18 Competition Sessions

6.1.4 Each Negotiating Team will represent the Requesting Party once, and the Responding Party once, in the course of its two Competition Sessions in the Preliminary Rounds.

6.1.5 Negotiating Teams will compete once using Problem No. 1. in the Preliminary Round 1; and once using Problem No. 2 in the Preliminary Round 2.

6.1.6 Each session will be evaluated and scored by two Expert Assessors assigned by the Host Institution according to Rule 5.4.

6.2 QUARTER FINALS ROUND: DAY 3

6.2.1 The 18 highest scoring Negotiating Teams and the 9 highest scoring Mediators from the Preliminary Rounds will proceed to the Quarter Finals Round.

6.2.2 The Quarter Finals Round will consist of a total of 9 Competition Sessions, involving two Negotiating Teams each. The pairings of competing Negotiating Teams will be decided in the following format.

- a) The 18 qualifying Negotiating Teams will be ranked as “T1 - T18” based on their aggregate score of the Preliminary Rounds. (“T1” being the Negotiating Team securing the highest score.)
- b) The Negotiating Teams will be then divided into two groups - “Group A” consisting of T1 to T9 and “Group B” consisting of T10 to T18.
- c) The Negotiating Teams competing against each other will be assigned in the following manner:

“Group A”	“Group B”
T1	T10
T2	T11
T3	T12

T4	T13
T5	T14
T6	T15
T7	T16
T8	T17
T9	T18

d) The roles played by the Negotiating Teams (Requesting /Responding party) will be decided by draw of lots.

6.2.3 The Mediators for the Main Rounds of Competition Sessions shall be decided by draw of lots.

6.2.4 The Host Institution reserves the right to make any changes to the fixtures in order to avoid the Mediator and Negotiating Team from the same Institution in the same Mediation Room.

6.2.5 Each session will be evaluated and scored by Three Expert Assessors assigned by the Host Institution according to Rule 5.4.

6.2.6 The winning Negotiating Team of each Competition Session of the Quarter –

Finals Round shall be ranked in accordance with their Scores. The four winning Negotiating Teams securing the highest scores shall proceed to the Semi-Final Round.

6.2.7 The two Mediators securing the highest scores shall proceed to the Semi-Final Round [which shall be the final round for the Mediators.]

6.3 SEMI-FINALS ROUND: DAY 4

6.3.1 The Semi-Final Round will be the Final Round for the Mediators.

6.3.2 The Semi-Final Round is a Knock-Out Round, and there will be two simultaneous Competition Sessions for this Round.

6.3.3 The roles of the Negotiating Teams (as Requesting and Responding Party), and the Mediator to be assigned for the Competition Sessions of the Semi Finals Round will be decided by a draw of lots, unless allotment becomes necessary to avoid a Mediator facing a Negotiating Team from the same Institution.

6.3.4 Each Semi-Final Main Round will be evaluated and scored by Two Expert Assessors for Negotiating Teams, and another Two Expert Assessors for the Mediator, assigned by the Organizing Committee according to Rule 5.4.

6.3.5 The Winner and Runner-up in the Best Mediator category will be decided after the Semi-Finals Round itself. However, the results for the same will be announced only at the Valedictory Function.

6.4 FINAL ROUND: DAY 5

- 6.4.1** The winning Negotiating Team from each Competition Session of the Semi-Finals Round will advance to the Final Round.
- 6.4.2** The Roles (as Responding Party and Requesting Party) of the two Negotiating Teams will be decided by a draw of lots.
- 6.4.3** The Final Round of the Negotiation Competition will be mediated by the Professional Mediator selected by the Organizing Committee from the Expert Assessors.
- 6.4.4** The Final Round will be evaluated and scored by Five Expert Assessors, assigned by the Organizing Committee according to Rule 5.4.

7. COMPETITION PROBLEMS

7.1.1 Each Competition Problem consists of General Information, distributed to all Teams according to Rule 7.1.2., and Confidential Information for the Requesting Party and Responding Parties distributed according to Rule 5.6. There will be **five separate Competition Problems** used during Lex Infinitum 2021:

- i) One Problem for the Preliminary Round 1 (Session 1 and 2)
- ii) One Problem for the Preliminary Round 2 (Session 3 and 4)
- iii) One Problem for the Quarterfinal Round
- iv) One Problem for the Semi Final Round
- v) One Problem for the Final Round.

7.1.2 The General Information of Competition Problems will be made available on the Official Website and shall also be communicated to the Participants.

7.1.3 The Selected Teams must rely only on the facts mentioned in the Competition Problem. Neither the Negotiators nor the Mediators are empowered to create any new facts or change any of the fact of Competition Problem, but they may make arguments or statements that can be reasonably inferred only from the facts mentioned in the problem.

7.1.4 Failure to adhere to Rule 7.1.3 will result in a penalty, which will be decided by the Expert Assessors assessing the Main Rounds of the Competition Session.

7.1.5 The Problem Committee and the Advisory Committee of the Competition has the sole authority to interpret any Competition Problem.

7.1.6 Teams will have 15 days from the release of the Competition Problems as prescribed by Rule 7.1.2 to email requests for clarifications to teams.lexinfinitum@gmail.com. Such emails must have the subject text in the following format – “Clarification re Problem ____: Team ID ____”.

7.1.7 Each Team may ask for up to three requests for clarifications per Competition Problem. Requests for clarifications may be made only to General Information of any Competition Problems. The Clarifications will be released by the Organizing Committee on the Official Website and communicated to the Teams.

8. SCORING

8.1.1 Throughout the Competition, the Negotiating Teams and Mediators will be evaluated and scored separately and may qualify for the subsequent Competition Sessions, independently of each other.

8.1.2 The scoring criteria for Negotiating Teams and Mediators may be found in the Scoring Sheets. (See Annexure A for Scoring Sheet for Negotiating Team and Annexure B for Scoring Sheet for Mediator)

8.1.3 Every Main Round of a Competition Session shall be scored, in addition to the Expert Assessors judging the round, by a Backup Expert Assessor designated by the Host Institution.

8.1.4 In the event that an Expert Assessor gets disconnected for up to 10 minutes from a Main Round due to network issues/ any other reason, the Round will continue to avoid disruptions, and the Judge on reconnecting will be provided with a recording of the Main Round to assess.

8.1.5 In the event that an Expert Assessor is unable to reconnect to a Main Round of a Competition Session within the time limit stipulated in Rule 8.1.4, or has other technical issues such that re-joining isn't possible, the scores of the Backup Expert Assessor shall be considered as the scores for the Participants of the Session, in place of the scores of the Expert Assessor concerned.

9. TIE BREAKER

9.1 TIE BREAKER FOR NEGOTIATING TEAMS

9.1.1 In case of a tie in the score of two or more Negotiating Teams in the Preliminary Rounds or the Quarter Final Round, the Negotiating Team that will advance to the next round shall be decided on the basis of the marks secured for **Criteria 3 (Advocating Interests)**, and in case the tie continues, on the basis of marks secured for **Criteria 8 (Use of Mediator)**.

9.1.2 In the unlikely event of a continuing tie, the Negotiating Team that will advance to the next round shall be decided by draw of lots.

9.2 TIE BREAKER FOR MEDIATORS

9.2.1 In case of a tie in the score of two or more Mediators, the Mediator who will advance to the next round shall be decided on the basis of the marks secured for **Criteria 5 (Effective Mediating Skills)**, and in case the tie continues, on the basis of marks secured for **Criteria 9 (Facilitating option generation)**.

9.2.2 In the unlikely event of a continuing tie, the Mediator that will advance to the next round shall be decided by draw of lots.

10. AWARDS

10.1 Negotiation and Mediation Prizes are as follows

- (i) 1st Place – Negotiating Team – Cash Prize of INR 50,000 + Winner’s Trophy
+ Award Certificate
- (ii) 2nd Place – Negotiating Team – Cash Prize of INR 20,000 + Trophy
+ Award Certificate
- (iii) 1st Place – Mediator - Cash Prize of INR 25,000 + Winner’s Trophy
+ Award Certificate
- (iv) 2nd Place – Mediator - Cash Prize of INR 10,000 + Trophy
+ Award Certificate

10.2 All Teams are entitled to receive digitally signed participation Certificates, which will be sent to all the teams by e-mail. The Winners and Runners Up will be sent Award Certificates in the same manner.

10.3 The Trophies referred to in Rule 10.1 shall be couriered to the winning teams, while the Cash Prize shall be electronically transferred to a bank account specified by the winning teams.

11. MODE OF COMMUNICATION AND TECHNICAL ORIENTATION

- 11.1** The Host Institution will conduct a Technical Orientation on 21st February 2021— where teams will be briefed about technical aspects of competitions, the Zoom Manual and other allied matters.
- 11.2** After the Technical Orientation, if any Negotiating Teams or Mediators have further queries regarding technical issues or the Zoom Manual, they may contact the IT Team of the Host Institution to resolve the same.
- 11.3** Members of the IT Team, shall, within their discretion, have one-to-one sessions with Selected Teams regarding the technical aspects of the Competition, if the IT Team deems it necessary for the purpose of resolving technical difficulties.
- 11.4** The Mode of Communication between the Host Institution and members of Selected Teams shall be the 'Whatsapp Messenger' application, unless specified otherwise in individual rules.
- 11.5** A Manual regarding the usage of the Zoom Platform for the Competition Sessions will be prepared and uploaded on the Official Website. This Zoom Manual will guide Teams and Participants on using the platforms, as well fixes for technical errors that might arise.
- 11.6** Every Selected Team is required to have an internet connection with a speed of at least 2 MPBS; and a UPS/Battery Backup for the Electronic Gadget [Either a Laptop or a Desktop Computer] being used to participate in the Competition Session. Every Team will be required to keep a backup internet connection in

case their primary connection fails for whatever reason. The members of a Negotiating Team shall log in using the same Electronic Gadget, i.e. only one laptop/ desktop computer.

11.7 Every Selected Team shall, as far as possible, participate in the Competition Session while being seated in a room with a professional / solid colour background; AND shall be seated in the same room as stipulated in Rules 5.2.2 and 5.2.3. The camera of the Electronic Gadget being used by the Team must clearly show the participants [Client & Counsel/Mediator] and the surroundings of the room they are seated in.

11.8 In the event of any of the participants in a round facing technical/ audio-video/ network 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 with alternative internet connection/s. The affected Negotiating Team/ Mediator must immediately contact the Host Institution in case of any such issue, and provide updates regarding the problem at their respective end.

11.9 During the Preliminary and Quarter Final Rounds, in case a Negotiating Team or a Mediator cannot reconnect properly in the time period referred to in Rule 11.8, a Backup team/mediator fully versed with the facts [and Confidential Information, if the affected party is a Negotiating Team in a Competition Session] shall take the place of the affected team, and the Competition Session shall continue.

11.10 During the Semi Final and Final Rounds, in case a Negotiating Team cannot reconnect properly in the time period referred to in Rule 11.8, the team so affected by technical/audio-video/network issues will be deemed to be knocked

out, and the other Negotiating Team shall be adjudged the winner. In case a Mediator cannot reconnect due to such issues, a Backup Mediator shall take the place of the affected Mediator.

12. VIOLATION OF RULES

12.1 Any violation of the rules will be penalized by the Grievance Redressal Committee, either by way of deduction of points or by disqualifying the whole Team from the Competition.

12.2 Non-compliance with the instructions of a Session Supervisor by the member/s of any Selected Team shall result in a penalty, which be decided by the Expert Assessors assessing the respective Main Round.

12.3 Any Penalty for any violation of the rules may be imposed on Teams by the Grievance Redressal Committee. The concerned Team will be given a fair chance to show cause why penalty should not be imposed on it. The decision of the Grievance Redressal Committee shall be final.

13. RESIDUARY RULES

- 13.1** The above rules are subject to change and modification as decided by the Host Institution and the Rules Committee. All measures will be undertaken for fair and orderly conduct of the Competition. The decision of the Organizing Committee in all matters regarding the Competition shall be final.
- 13.2** Time and deadlines will follow Indian Standard Time (IST). Rounds will be adjusted / scheduled, as far as possible, to avoid extreme inconvenience/problems to teams and judges across different time zones.
- 13.3** All Communications, Queries and Clarifications in relation to the Competition may be emailed to teams@lexinfinitum.in. Any such queries and clarifications by Selected Teams must mention their Team ID in the subject of the email.
- 13.4** The Host Institution, through the Rules Committee and the Organizing Committee, has the sole authority to resolve ambiguities or inconsistencies involving the Rules, if any.

ANNEXURE -A**SCORE SHEET FOR NEGOTIATING TEAM**

Scoring Scale : 1 = Poor 2 = Average 3 = Good 4 = Very Good 5 =Exceptional

Name of Institution:**Chamber Number:**

No.	Criteria	Marks
(1)	Opening Statement Expressing confidence in the process, skillful articulation of facts to put forth the case, persuasive comments to influence the other party.	
(2)	Relationship-building and Problem Solving Willingness to collaborate, taking initiative to build a problem solving approach, decision on disclosure of confidential information, strategically sacrificing interests to build a relationship.	
(3)	Advocating Interests Assessment of one's own strengths and weaknesses, identifying and developing client's real needs and interests, identifying common and conflicting interests.	
(4)	Information Gathering Non-opinionated approach, reliance on information rather than emotions, relevant and probing questions, strategy for asking uncomfortable questions, questions designed to understand the other parties' interests.	
(5)	Mutually Generating Creative Options Generating options to satisfy one's needs and interests, efforts made to satisfy other's interests, non-judgmental approach, objective evaluation of options generated by other party.	
(6)	Collaborating with the Other party Interaction with other party and its object (find solution or fault), use of legal position, principled approach (to avoid soft and hard Negotiation), rapport and trust building, demonstration of listening skills, establishing positive atmosphere.	
(7)	Team Work and Coordination Effectiveness of collaboration, reliance and faith on each other's ability, working together as a team, communicating with each other, sharing of responsibility, providing mutual support.	
(8)	Use of Mediator Timely and effective use of mediator, mediators interventions to secure the desired outcome.	

(9)	Effective Negotiation Skills Extent of success in protecting interests, creative ways adopted to achieve goals, reasons for failure in negotiation (if any), conclusion of session, handling of emotions, handling of hard bargaining.	
(10)	Negotiation Strategy Overall strategy developed to deal with the dispute, time spent on relation building, information gathering and slowly moving into negotiation; change of approach, adaptability.	
<i>Negative Marking (if any) - In case of non-adherence to rules, if party introduces elements which are not within the problem or the Confidential information, time penalty Glaring=5, Flagrant=4, Serious=3, Minor=2, Deliberate inaccuracies=1</i>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">—</div>
Total:		

Name of Assessor:

Signature:

ANNEXURE – B**SCORE SHEET FOR MEDIATOR**

Scoring Scale : 1 = Poor 2 = Average 3 = Good 4 = Very Good 5 = Exceptional

No.	Criteria	Marks
(1)	Opening Statement Conveying the importance of the process, tactics adopted to calm parties, effective explanation of the process with special reference to his/her role.	
(2)	Establishing Working Atmosphere Explanation of the ground rules, balancing adherence to rules with kindness to parties, whether Mediator facilitates an informal discussion or stiff and formal approach (depending on the situation)	
(3)	Mediation Process Patience, positivity, persistence and professionalism, building of trust and rapport with the parties, maintaining impartial and non-judgmental approach, adherence to ground rules.	
(4)	Effective Communication Skills Adaptation of techniques of active and passive listening, body language, timely intervention to guide the process of mediation.	
(5)	Effective Mediating Skills Use of common and conflicting interests to the advantage of the Mediation process, assisting parties to move ahead with the relationship, contribution for an effective process and outcome; assistance in developing a problem-solving approach.	
(6)	Profiling Parties Interests Elucidating the parties' interests, identifying common and conflicting interests and helping parties generate interests.	
(7)	Comprehending party's apprehension Encouraging the parties to open up and navigate towards settlement of issues.	
(8)	Eliciting Information:	

	Framing of questions, manner of asking uncomfortable questions, collecting information while maintaining an unbiased image, optimum use of time by asking only relevant questions.	
(9)	Facilitating Option Generation: Approach adopted in assisting option generation, steps taken to keep options realistic and ethical, encouraging the parties to generate win-win options.	
(10)	Sensitivity to ethical and cross cultural issues Handling of the ethical issues, being sensitive to the different cultural backgrounds of the parties.	
<p><i>Negative Marking (if any) - In case of non-adherence to rules, time penalty, mediator acts more like an Adjudicator or Arbitrator and plays no active role.</i></p> <p><i>Glaring=5, Flagrant=4, Serious=3, Minor=2, Deliberate inaccuracies=1</i></p>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">-</div>
Total:		

Name of Institution:

Chamber Number:

Name of Assessor:

Signature

