



THE TAMIL NADU Dr. AMBEDKAR LAW UNIVERSITY

(State University Established by Act No. 43 of 1997)

SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE IN LAW

"Perungudi Campus", MGR Salai, Perungudi, Chennai- 600 113



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DEAN

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CIRCULAR

Sub: The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University - School of Excellence in Law - Academic Year 2025-2026 - Moot Court Association - Internal Challenger Rules, 2026 - Informed - Reg.

The Moot Court Association (MCA), School of Excellence in Law, Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, hereby notifies the Internal Challenger Rules, 2026. These Rules are framed with the objective of ensuring fairness, uniformity, transparency, and standardisation in the conduct of all Internal Challengers organised by the MCA.

These Rules shall come into force with effect from 21st April 2026.

Any concerns, objections, or requests for clarification regarding these Rules shall be addressed to the Moot Court Association via email at mca.soel@gmail.com on or before 14th April 2026.

INTERNAL CHALLENGER RULES, 2026

Preamble

In order to ensure fairness, uniformity, and standardisation in the conduct of Internal Challengers (hereinafter "ICs"), the Moot Court Association (hereinafter "MCA"), the following Rules are hereby framed to regulate the conduct of Internal Challengers (ICs):

I. Eligibility

1. Only students duly enrolled in the School of Excellence in Law, Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University at the time of the IC shall be eligible to participate.
2. Students who have graduated shall not be eligible.
3. A student who is under academic suspension, disciplinary probation, or has been debarred by the institution shall be ineligible.

II. Official Recognition

1. No student or team shall participate in any moot unless duly acknowledged by the MCA or unless the Internal Challenger has been officially notified on the MCA website.
2. Participation in any external moot on behalf of the institution shall be subject to prior qualification through the Internal Challenger, unless otherwise exempted by the MCA.

III. Registrations

1. Any student desirous of participating in an IC shall be eligible to do so only upon registration through MCA Portal.
2. Registration shall be effected exclusively through the MCA Portal, notwithstanding any unlimited registrations permitted from a single institution.
3. Registration shall be completed within the time period stipulated in the notification of the Internal Challenger, which shall be strictly adhered to.

IV. Late Registrations and Low Participation

1. Where the number of registrations is found to be insufficient, the MCA may, in its discretion, consider a registration received after the stipulated time, or may issue a re-notification for the same moot.

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2. No registration shall be entertained through email or by any other means subsequent to the deadline, save as provided under sub-section (1).
 3. In competitions allowing unlimited teams per university, the registration deadline for the Internal Challenger shall be deemed to be identical to that of the actual competition.

V. Team Composition and Substitution

1. A team may apply for substitution or alteration of members by way of a formal mail to the MCA.
2. Such substitution shall be permissible only where at least one member of the original team continues to remain in the reconstituted team.
3. Complete substitution of the team shall not be permitted.
4. A student may not represent more than one team in the same Internal Challenger.

VI. Special Provisions

1. In Internal Challengers relating to Trial Advocacy, the researcher or researchers of the respective team shall act as the witness or witnesses.
2. In Internal Challengers relating to Client Counselling, the clients shall be provided by the MCA.
3. In Internal Challengers pertaining to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) competition, including mediation, negotiation, or arbitration formats, the Internal Challengers shall follow the structure, procedure, and rules prescribed by the organizing external institution or college, ensuring participants are prepared in accordance with the competition's standards.
4. In Internal Challengers where no external structure or format is prescribed, the conduct, structure, and ancillary arrangements shall be at the discretion of the Internal Challenger Co-ordinator.

VII. Memorials & Submissions

1. All written submissions, if required, shall be submitted strictly in the manner and within the time stipulated by the MCA.
2. Late submissions shall invite penalties or disqualification, at the discretion of the MCA.

VIII. Interaction with Judges

1. The name of the judge appointed for the Internal Challenger, once confirmed, shall be officially announced by the Internal Challenger Co-ordinator to all participants.
2. If, after such disclosure, any participant perceives a potential bias on the part of a judge, he/she shall immediately report the concern to the Internal Challenger Co-ordinator and formally object through the prescribed grievance mechanism.
3. No participant shall attempt to communicate with or influence the judge before or during the Internal Challenger.
4. Failure to report or raise an objection in accordance with sub-rule (2) shall preclude the team from raising the same concern subsequently. All reported concerns shall be reviewed by the Grievance Redressal Cell (GRC) in accordance with Rule XIV.

IX. Duration and Structure of Internal Challengers

1. The duration of an Internal Challenger shall ordinarily be fifteen (15) minutes.
2. The duration may, however, be varied at the discretion of the judges, having regard to the nature of the competition.
3. Where more than eight (8) teams are registered, the judges may, at their discretion, decide whether to conduct memorial qualifier rounds.
4. If memorial qualifier rounds are conducted:
 - (a) For competitions with 9-15 teams, the top 2 teams from the memorial qualifiers shall qualify for the oral rounds.
 - (b) For competitions with 16 or more teams, the top 4 teams from the memorial qualifiers shall qualify for the oral rounds.

X. Withdrawal and Blacklisting

1. No team shall withdraw from an Internal Challenger within twelve hours prior to its scheduled commencement. The minimum time limit may be extended at the discretion of the Internal Challenger Coordinators only under special circumstances, but in no case shall it be reduced.
2. Any participant or team contravening sub-section (1) on more than one occasion shall be liable to be blacklisted and restrained from registering or participating in the subsequent Internal Challenger for the next 45 days.
3. No student who has been blacklisted by the MCA shall be eligible to participate in any Internal Challenger during the period of restriction.
4. If a blacklisted member is found to be part of a team registered for an Internal Challenger, the ICC shall immediately inform the team of the member's ineligibility and ensure that the team proceeds without the participation of the blacklisted member.
5. In the case of participants who are directly qualified for an external competition, the year representative of the participant shall be responsible for informing the team of any ineligible or blacklisted member, and the team shall ensure compliance accordingly.

X-A. Role of the Internal Challenger Coordinator

The Internal Challenger Coordinators shall act as a neutral facilitator, ensuring the smooth conduct of Internal Challengers (ICs) with the primary objective of accommodating the interests of all stakeholders.

1. The ICC shall act impartially and shall not display any bias or favouritism towards any participant or team.
Any conduct perceived to be in contravention of this duty of neutrality, if witnessed by participating teams, may be reported to the Grievance Redressal Cell for appropriate action.
2. To preserve neutrality and avoid conflicts of interest, the Internal Challenger Coordinator shall not participate as a competitor in the Internal Challenger which they are coordinating and the MCA shall take responsibility to ensure the same.
3. The Internal Challenger Coordinator (ICC) shall exercise primary authority in determining the schedule of the Internal Challenger, including the date, time, order of the teams, and all ancillary matters necessary for its conduct.
In exercising such authority, the overriding aim shall be to accommodate the interests of all stakeholders, namely, the participating teams, the judges, and the Organising Committee (OC).
4. In the event of any conflict, the following order of precedence shall apply in order to best harmonise competing interests: Judges > Teams > Organising Committee.
5. In accommodating the interests of the teams, the ICC shall seek to ascertain the majority opinion of the teams concerned.
Where the opinions are evenly divided, the ICC shall exercise discretion to analyse the circumstances and render a final decision, always guided by the objective of ensuring fairness and inclusivity.
6. Any participant who wishes to propose necessary changes or communicate relevant information regarding the Internal Challenger may do so either through the WhatsApp group created for the Internal Challenger or directly to the Internal Challenger Coordinator. It shall be the responsibility of the Internal Challenger Coordinator to ensure that such information is communicated to all other participants in a timely and appropriate manner.

XI. Mandatory Reporting from the teams:

1. Any student or team that has either:
 - (a) won an Internal Challenger (IC), as announced by the Internal Challenger Coordinator (ICC);
 - (Or)
 - (b) been directly qualified to an external competition without undergoing an Internal Challenger, in which case the team may verify their qualification status via the MCA portal, shall complete the registration process for the relevant external competition within twenty-four (24) hours of such announcement.
2. Where any special compliance or formalities are required for registration, the team may seek an extension from the ICC to complete the same.
3. In the event that a winning or directly qualified team fails to report within the stipulated time, it shall be deemed that the team is not interested in participating. In such cases:
 - (a) the MCA shall be entitled to nominate the next highest-scoring team from the Internal Challenger to represent the institution; or
 - (b) in cases of direct qualification without an Internal Challenger, the MCA may, at its discretion, re-notify the same competition for selection through an Internal Challenger.
4. Any student or team contravening sub-rule (1) shall be liable to be blacklisted for a period of forty-five (45) days, during which time they shall not be permitted to participate in any Internal Challenger or any other competition.

XII. Binding Nature of Decisions

1. The decision rendered by the judge or judges in any Internal Challenger shall be final and binding upon all participants.
2. Any decision taken by the MCA in respect of the conduct, administration, or regulation of the IC shall likewise be final and binding.

XIII. Selection and Transparency

1. In the event that a team selected through an Internal Challenger is, for any reason, unable to participate in the external competition, the next highest-scoring team shall be selected in its place.
2. The official scoresheet of the Internal Challenger shall be made available to all participating teams after the conclusion of the Internal Challenger.

XIV. Reporting of External Competitions

1. Every team representing the institution in any external moot court, trial advocacy, client counselling, or allied competition shall duly inform the MCA of the result of such competition.
2. Teams that qualified through an IC shall report the results through the designated Internal Challenger Coordinator, while teams that were directly qualified without undergoing an Internal Challenger shall report through their respective year representative.
3. Such intimation shall include the rounds qualified, the win-loss record, and the position, if any, secured by the team.
4. The information under sub-section (1) shall be communicated within twenty-four (24) hours of the declaration of results.
5. Failure to comply with this requirement may entail disciplinary consequences, as determined by the MCA.

XV. Grievance Redressal

1. It shall be the responsibility of the participants to promptly raise any objection or discrepancy encountered during the conduct of the IC. Such concerns must be communicated only through the prescribed grievance mechanism.
2. Upon conclusion of each Internal Challenger, the MCA shall circulate a grievance form to all participants.
3. Any query, concern, or grievance may be raised only through the prescribed form.
4. A Grievance Redressal Cell (hereinafter "GRC"), consisting of the President, Vice-President, and the General Secretary of the MCA, shall be constituted to address and decide upon grievances received from participants.
5. The GRC shall consider all grievances and pass a reasoned decision within seven (7) days of receipt.
6. Any participant aggrieved by the decision of the GRC may prefer an appeal, which shall be heard and decided by the Faculty Coordinators.
7. The decision of the Faculty Coordinators on such appeal shall be final and binding.

XVI. Interpretation of Rules

1. The MCA shall have the sole authority to interpret or modify these Rules.
2. Any situation not expressly provided for in these Rules shall be resolved by the MCA, whose decision shall be final and binding.


DEAN

To:

All the students of 5 Year Integrated (Hons.) & 3 Year LL.B.(Hons.), U.G. Degree Programmes of School of Excellence in Law, TNDALU.

Copy to:

- 1) The P.S. for placing before the Convener Committee for kind information
- 2) The Registrar for kind information
- 3) The Academic Advisor, TNDALU
- 4) Administrative Advisor & Campus Director, TNDALU
- 5) The Librarian, TNDALU.
- 6) The Director & Year Faculty, 5 Year Integrated & 3 Year LL.B.(Hons.), SOEL, TNDALU.
- 7) The Sargent, (for making necessary arrangements).
- 8) The Course Admin., Staff, UG., SOEL, TNDALU.