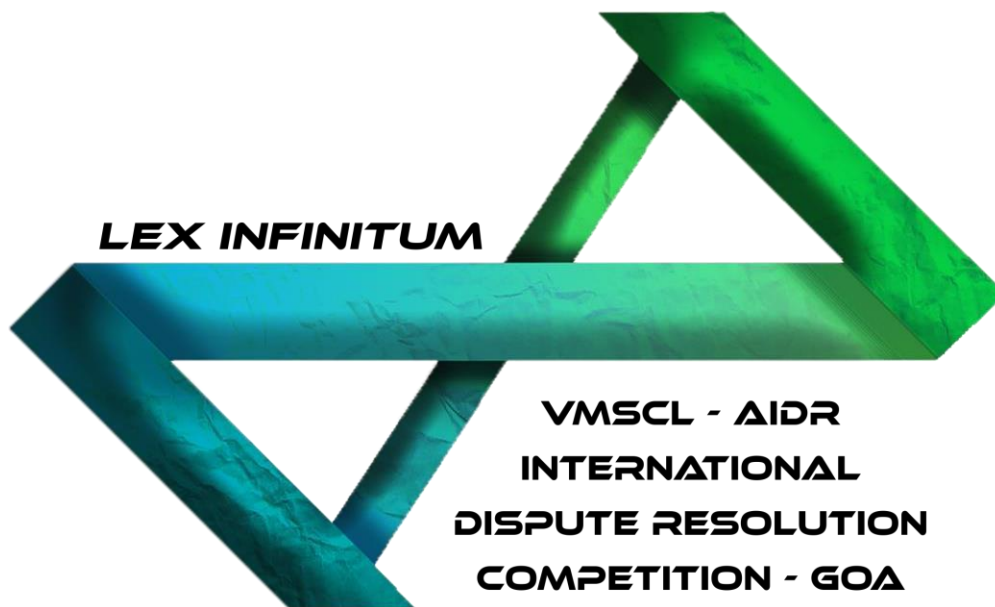


**VMSCCL - AIDR**  
**LEX INFINITUM 2022 - INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE**  
**RESOLUTION COMPETITION**

**GUIDELINES & RULES**

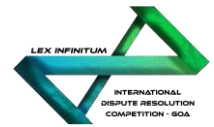


**23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**ONLINE COMPETITION**

## **FOREWORD – LEX INFINITUM 2022 RULEBOOK**

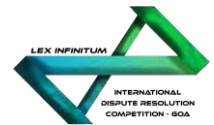
*The excessive application of the word ‘unprecedented’ in the last few decades, to events ranging from an increase in taxes to a decrease in rainfall, has caused in quite a lot of people the inability to grasp the seriousness of an actual disaster. If there ever was a situation in recent times that demanded 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 6 years, having a competition involving physical meetings of people from various places is inadvisable, in the best interests of everyone involved. For this reason, V.M. Salgaocar College of Law and the Association for International Dispute Resolution (AIDR) have decided to conduct the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Lex Infinitum - International Dispute Resolution Competition, 2022 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- [www.lexinfinitum.in](http://www.lexinfinitum.in).*



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>RULE 1.</b>	<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	<b>.....06</b>
<b>RULE 2.</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>.....10</b>
<b>RULE 3.</b>	<b>PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>.....10</b>
3.1	ELIGIBILITY OF TEAMS	.....10
3.2	TEAM COMPOSITION	..... 11
3.3	COACH	.....12
<b>RULE 4.</b>	<b>APPLICATION, SELECTION OF TEAMS AND FEES</b>	<b>.....13</b>
4.1	APPLICATION AND SELECTION OF TEAMS	.....13
4.2	REGISTRATION FEES	.....15
<b>RULE 5.</b>	<b>COMPETITION SESSIONS</b>	<b>.....16</b>
5.1	LANGUAGE	.....16
5.2	TEAM PARTICIPATION	..... 16
5.3	COMPETITION SESSION TIMINGS	.....17
5.4	ASSESSMENT	.....18
5.5	COMPETITION LINK	.....18
5.6	CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SESSION	.....19
5.7	ROOM COMPOSITION DURING MAIN ROUND	.....19
5.8	BREAK	.....20





5.9 CAUCUS	.....21
5.10 TIMEKEEPING	.....21
5.11 REFERENCE MATERIAL, GADGETS AND HANDOUTS	.....22
5.12 DRESS CODE	.....23
5.13 PHOTOGRAPHY/ FILMING	.....23
<b>RULE 6. COMPETITION FORMAT</b>	<b>.....24</b>
6.1 PRELIMINARY ROUNDS	.....24
6.2 QUARTER FINAL ROUND	.....25
6.3 SEMI FINAL ROUND	.....27
6.4 FINAL ROUND	.....28
<b>RULE 7. COMPETITION PROBLEMS</b>	<b>.....28</b>
<b>RULE 8. SCORING</b>	<b>.....30</b>
<b>RULE 9. TIE BREAKER</b>	<b>.....30</b>
<b>RULE 10. AWARDS</b>	<b>.....31</b>
<b>RULE 11. MODE OF COMMUNICATION</b>	<b>.....32</b>



<b>RULE 12. VIOLATION OF RULES</b>	<b>.....33</b>
<b>RULE 13.RESIDUARY RULES</b>	<b>.....34</b>
<b>ANNEXURE – A. SCORE SHEET FOR NEGOTIATING TEAM</b>	<b>.....35</b>
<b>ANNEXURE – B. SCORE SHEET FOR MEDIATOR</b>	<b>.....37</b>



## 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, 2022.
- 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 2021-2022.
- 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](http://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 there under.
- 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 2022, 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 Seventh Edition of Lex Infinitum 2022: International Dispute Resolution Competition, 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 **23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.**
- 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. 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”.
- 2.4. 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 *bona fide* 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.** The designation of Participants as ‘Client’, ‘Counsel’, and ‘Mediator’ will remain unchanged throughout the Competition.



### **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 2022 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 four stages:

- i. Application by the Teams
- ii. Guidelines for the video application,
- iii. Selection Process by the Selection Committee, and
- iv. 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](http://www.lexinfinitum.in). The deadline for Application by the Teams is **30<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 23:59 Indian Standard Time.**

#### **4.1.2 Guidelines for the video application:**

- a) Negotiating Teams must record a maximum 2-minute video, depicting their abilities as a Team of negotiators and how they will contribute towards the Competition.
- b) Mediators must record a maximum 1-minute video, depicting their abilities as a Mediator and how they will contribute towards the Competition.
- c) You must upload the video within the same Google Form while submitting your Registration Application
- d) All Applicants must participate in the video and play an equal part
- e) Please keep the video simple. We do not expect a professional video made with the help of professional cameras or other such equipment.
- f) There are no rigid rules as to the ‘how’ of recording the video. We encourage you to be creative and add your own touch to it. You are at liberty to infuse



your ideas and utilise the given time in the best possible way.

- g) Please ensure that the video is not more than 500 MB.
- h) You must name the video in the following manner only. Any other name will not be accepted.  
E.g., if the name of your college is V.M. Salgaocar College of Law:
  - Negotiating Team - “NT\_VMSalgaocarCollegeofLaw”.
  - Mediator - “M\_VMSalgaocarCollegeofLaw”.
- i) Kindly note that you will not be permitted to submit the Google Form without attaching the Video. Thus, submission of the video is mandatory for your application to be considered for selection.
- j) You are requested to note that videos that do not fulfil the criteria set out above shall not be considered for selection to Lex Infinitum 2022.
- k) Should you have any queries with respect to the guidelines elucidated above, or face any issues with uploading the video, please feel free to contact us at [teams.lexinfinitum@gmail.com](mailto:teams.lexinfinitum@gmail.com).

**4.1.3** For the Selection Process, The Selection Committee, consisting of V.M. Salgaocar College of Law and the Advisory Committee, will shortlist a maximum of 36 Teams out of all the Applicant Teams that have successfully completed the Application by the above-mentioned deadline.

**4.1.4** 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 **21<sup>st</sup> December 2021, 23:59 Indian Standard Time.**

**4.1.5** The Selected Teams will have time till **28<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 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.

**4.1.6** 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.

**4.1.7** 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.

**4.1.8** In the event of a selected Team forfeiting its participation in Lex Infinitum 2022, 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.

## **4.2. 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 2022 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 need not be physically present in the same room for the purpose of participating in a Competition Session.



- 5.2.3** During the Confidential Information Session, the Coach of a Team, if any, need not 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 – 30minutes
- b) Gap between CI Session and Main Round – 10minutes
- c) Main Round – 60 minutes [including Caucus, Breaks etc.]
- d) Scoring by Expert Assessors – 10minutes
- 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 COMPETITON LINK**

**5.5.1** The links for the competition rounds will be sent to the negotiators and mediators before the competition begins. The participants will be put into breakout rooms for CI and Caucus session.



**5.5.2** 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 will be put into breakout rooms by the session supervisor after they have joined, their respective competition link.

**5.6.2** At the scheduled time, the Confidential Information will be sent to the negotiators registered email ID. 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 MAINROUND**

**5.7.1** During the Main Rounds, there shall be 9 people present for each Main Round of a Competition Session - 4 negotiators [two from each Negotiating Team], 1



mediator, 2 Expert Assessors, and 2 Session Supervisors.

**5.7.2** For the Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals respectively, there shall be one additional Expert Assessor, in addition to the 9 persons specified above. For Semi Final there shall be additional two expert assessors, in addition to the 9 people mentioned above. For the Final of Lex Infinitum 2022, there shall be 5 Expert Assessors, making it 11 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.

**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 put into their respective breakout rooms by the session supervisor.

**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 for shall function as their Caucus Breakout Room.

**5.9.3** The Competition Session Participants that are not part of the Caucus will be shifted to a breakout room during that time, 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 HANDOUTS**

**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, smart bands, smartwatches.

**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 Infinitum 2022 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 Infinitum. 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 Infinitum 2022 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, maybe conveyed to the Host Institution by way of an email to [lexinfinitum.vms@gmail.com](mailto:lexinfinitum.vms@gmail.com) or [teams.lexinfinitum@gmail.com](mailto:teams.lexinfinitum@gmail.com) 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 maximum 36 Competition Sessions, depending on how many teams get selected, 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.

For example, if 32 negotiating teams and 16 mediators get selected, then the distribution of the 32 competition sessions in the two days of preliminary rounds is as follows:

- a) Preliminary Round 1 – 24.02.2022 – Session 1 and 2 (8 Competition Sessions per Session) = 16 Competition Sessions





b) Preliminary Round 2 – 25.02.2022 – Session 3 and 4 (8 Competition Sessions per Session) = 16 Competition Sessions

**6.1.3** 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.

**6.1.4** 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.

**6.1.5** 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** Selection of negotiating teams and mediators for quarterfinal round will depend on the total no. of teams participating in the preliminary round. Fifty Percent of the participating negotiating teams will proceed to the quarterfinals. Similarly, fifty percent of the participating mediators will proceed to the quarterfinal round.

**6.2.2** For example:

If 18 teams negotiating teams are selected, 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 Final 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 2022:

- 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](mailto: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 maybe 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 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.

## 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) 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Negotiating Team – Cash Prize of INR50,000 + Winner’s Trophy  
+ Award Certificate
- (ii) 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Negotiating Team – Cash Prize of INR 20,000 + Trophy  
+ Award Certificate
- (iii) 1<sup>st</sup>Place – Mediator – Cash Prize of INR 25,000 + Winner’s Trophy  
+ Award Certificate
- (iv) 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

**11.1** 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.

**11.2** 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.

**11.3** Every Selected Team shall, as far as possible, participate in the Competition Session while being seated in rooms with a professional / solid colour background; AND 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.

**11.4** 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.

- 11.5** 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.
- 11.6** 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@gmail.com](mailto:teams.lexinfinitum@gmail.com). 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)	<b>Opening Statement</b> Expressing confidence in the process, skillful articulation of facts to put forth the case, persuasive comments to influence the other party.	
(2)	<b>Relationship-building and Problem Solving</b> 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)	<b>Advocating Interests</b> Assessment of one's own strengths and weaknesses, identifying and developing client's real needs and interests, identifying common and conflicting interests.	
(4)	<b>Information Gathering</b> 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)	<b>Mutually Generating Creative Options</b> 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)	<b>Collaborating with the Other party</b> 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)	<b>Team Work and Coordination</b> 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)	<b>Use of Mediator</b> Timely and effective use of mediator, mediators' interventions to secure the desired outcome.	



(9)	<p><b>Effective Negotiation Skills</b></p> <p>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.</p>	
(10)	<p><b>Negotiation Strategy</b></p> <p>Overall strategy developed to deal with the dispute, time spent on relation building, information gathering and slowly moving into negotiation; change of approach, adaptability.</p>	
<p><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</i></p> <p><i>Glaring=5, Flagrant=4, Serious=3, Minor=2, Deliberate inaccuracies=1</i></p>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">—</div>
<b>Total:</b>		

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)	<b>Opening Statement</b> Conveying the importance of the process, tactics adopted to calm parties, effective explanation of the process with special reference to his/her role.	
(2)	<b>Establishing Working Atmosphere</b> 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)	<b>Mediation Process</b> Patience, positivity, persistence and professionalism, building of trust and rapport with the parties, maintaining impartial and non-judgmental approach, adherence to ground rules.	
(4)	<b>Effective Communication Skills</b> Adaptation of techniques of active and passive listening, body language, timely intervention to guide the process of mediation.	
(5)	<b>Effective Mediating Skills</b> 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)	<b>Profiling Parties Interests</b> Elucidating the parties' interests, identifying common and conflicting interests and helping parties generate interests.	
(7)	<b>Comprehending party's apprehension</b> Encouraging the parties to open up and navigate towards settlement of issues.	
(8)	<b>Eliciting Information:</b>	



	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)	<b>Facilitating Option Generation:</b> Approach adopted in assisting option generation, steps taken to keep options realistic and ethical, encouraging the parties to generate win-win options.	
(10)	<b>Sensitivity to ethical and cross-cultural issues</b> 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: 40px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">-</div>
<b>Total:</b>		

**Name of Institution:**

**Chamber Number:**

**Name of Assessor:**

**Signature**

