



**JURITRUST CENTRE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY
NATIONAL MOOT COMPETITION
SECOND EDITION**

RULES

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Section 1: Objectives

The Juritrust Centre Administration of Criminal Justice Academy National Moot Competition (The Competition) is meticulously designed to promote legal education and practice in the Criminal Justice system in Nigeria. It aims in particular to -

- a) Develop skills in criminal justice matters including enhanced knowledge of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015.
- b) improve analytical research, persuasive argumentation, and articulate communication skills of participating law students.
- c) promote professional ethics in the practice and profession of law;
- d) identify and mentor young lawyers by providing a platform for them to showcase their abilities, thereby contributing to the development of a highly skilled legal workforce in Nigeria.

Section 2: The Organiser

The Competition is organised by the Administration of Criminal Justice Academy, hosted by Juritrust Centre for Socio-Legal Research and Documentation.

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Section 3: Rules

- 1) The Competition's Rules (The Rules) regulate the competition from the opening of the registration to the awards ceremony.
- 2) The organiser have the authority to interpret and amend these Rules.
- 3) By submitting their application, applicants acknowledge that they have read and accepted these Rules.
- 4) The scores and decisions regarding individual participants and teams by judges are not subject to complaints and cannot be appealed.
- 5) Participants may complain formally against administrative errors (e.g., incorrect calculation of overall results). Any complaint regarding other participants or other circumstances shall be brought to the attention of the organiser immediately. Retroactive complaints will not be heard.

Section 4: General Provisions

Use of Terms

Team coordinator	The team coordinator can be the team coach or a team member. The team coordinator is responsible for the administration of the team, such as registration and communication with the organiser.
Team coach	The team coach provides general advice to team members and assists with designing the case strategy but does not participate as a team member. The team coach can, but not necessarily, be a staff member of the team's institution. The presence of the team coach at the moot proceedings is not mandatory.
Team	The team consists of two students and one team coach).

Team member	A team member is an undergraduate law student registered at the institution being represented during this competition. Team members need to be registered with the institution throughout the entire competition.
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Team identification number (TIN)	The team identification number is the anonymous number given to each team participating in this competition. The TIN for each team will be communicated via mail upon receipt of application form.
Briefs of Argument	This includes the written submissions for the knock-out stage of this competition: one for the State and one for the Defence.
Bench	The Bench refers to the Competition's judges
Juritrust Centre official website	https://juritrustcentre.org/
Organiser	See section 2 of these Rules

Section 5: Competition

- 1) No application fee or participation fee is charged.
- 2) The Competition consists of the brief writing (knock-out phase) and moot proceedings stage (final phase)
- 3) To participate in the Competition, teams need to submit an application in accordance with section 7.
- 4) A complete application qualifies the team for the brief writing stage.
- 5) For the moot proceedings stage, teams will be selected based on their results for the brief writing stage.

Section 6: Eligibility

- 1) Participation in this competition is exclusively open to ***bona fide* students enrolled in law faculties across Nigeria's six geo-political zones.**

Section 7: Application

- 1) Prospective participating law faculties are required to download the application form and submit together with a letter of motivation endorsed by the Dean of the Faculty of Law.
- 2) The word count for the letter of motivation should be minimum of 800 and maximum of 1,200. The motivation letter should state:
 - i. the reasons for applying to the competition,
 - ii. the relevance of the competition to the team member's studies and career plans, as well as their interest in administration of criminal justice.
- 3) After applying in accordance with these Rules, a team identification number (TIN) will be assigned to each team.

Section 8: Brief Writing Stage

- 1) The hypothetical case will be sent to each team via email.
- 2) Each team shall prepare a brief of argument for the State and a brief of argument for the Defence, or any other brief the organisers may require.
- 3) Each team shall submit their briefs of argument in a PDF format, A4 size paper.
- 4) The briefs or argument shall be in Times New Roman, size 12. Footnotes shall be in Times New Roman, size 10.
- 5) Each page shall have a margin of 2 cm/0.79 inches on every side of the text.
- 6) The text shall use a 1.5 line spacing. Footnotes shall be single-spaced.

- 7) The brief (State and Defence) shall each not exceed 5000 – 6500 words including the front page, table of contents and footnotes.

NOTE: The front page shall only indicate the TIN, the party to the proceeding and the phrase “Juritrust Administration of Criminal Justice Academy Moot Competition” at the bottom of the page

- 8) Pages shall be numbered.
- 9) No information identifying the team members and their university should appear on any part of the briefs. Also, ensure that documents are not saved with any information identifying a team. Any application in breach of this will be disqualified.
- 10) The briefs shall be sent to juritrustmoot@gmail.com

Section 9: Scoring the Briefs

- 1) The maximum score for each brief is 50 points:
- Up to 40 points may be awarded for the handling of substantive issues.
 - Points are allocated as follows
 - ✦ Knowledge and analysis of the facts: max 10 points.
 - ✦ Understanding of legal issues and the applicable law: max 10 points.
 - ✦ Legal analysis (quality of argument): max 10 points. § Logic (structure of argument): max 10 points.
 - Up to 10 points may be awarded to the overall presentation. Points are allocated as follows:
 - ✦ Grammar: max 3 points
 - ✦ Style: max 3 points
 - ✦ Use of legal terminology: max 4 points
- 2) Plagiarism or the use of Artificial Intelligence will be sanctioned with disqualification.
- 3) The organiser may apply a penalty of up to five points for violation of Section 8 (3) – (8).
- 4) Teams will receive feedback about their briefs.
- 5) Those teams that did not advance to the moot proceedings stage will also receive a certificate confirming their participation in the brief writing stage.
- 6) In exceptional circumstances or if a selected team cannot attend the moot proceedings stage, the organiser may contact the team with the next best results and invite it to participate.

Section 10 Moot Proceedings Stage

- 1) The teams that advance to the moot proceedings stage shall confirm their participation via email to juritrustmoot@gmail.com. Teams will be asked to:
 - a. Confirm their participation
 - b. Sign and send a photo/video consent form
- 2) The team with the lower TIN in ascending order will assume the role of the State. Conversely, the team with the higher TIN will undertake the role of the Defence. For example, if teams with TIN 200 and TIN 300 advance to the moot proceedings stage, TIN 200 will be the State and TIN 300 will be the Defence.
- 3) The moot proceedings stage may be streamed live on the YouTube channel and other media channels of the organiser.

Section 11 Oral Presentations

All team members shall make oral presentations during the hearing.

- 1) The total speaking time for each role (State and Defence) is 25 minutes. Teams are responsible for their own timekeeping, and the extent of noncompliance with the allotted time shall be considered while scoring each team.
- 2) Each team may use an extra five minutes for rebuttals and sur-rebuttals.
- 3) It is within the discretion of the team to decide which team member shall present the rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.
- 4) The order of the pleadings is as follows:
 - i. Team appearances
 - ii. Oral presentation by the State
 - iii. Oral presentation by the Defence
 - iv. Rebuttal by the State
 - v. Sur-rebuttal by the Defence
- 5) During the team appearances, team members presenting shall introduce themselves to the Court. **The name of the team's university shall not be stated at any time during the competition.**
- 6) New issues cannot be raised in the rebuttal and sur-rebuttal (rebuttals). All issues raised by State during the main presentation may be discussed during the rebuttal. All issues raised by the Defence during the main presentation and rebuttal may be addressed during the sur-rebuttal.
- 7) Objections are not allowed.

Section 12: Communication

- 1) The team coach may not sit with his or her team and may not give advice during the pleadings.
- 2) Team members are allowed to use technical appliances, such as laptops, watches, tablets.
- 3) Team members are allowed to communicate with each other in writing as long as the speaker is not distracted.

Section 13: Appearance

- 1) In the event of late appearance, it is within the discretion of the Bench to decide on penalty points.
- 2) If there are exceptional circumstances, the organiser may reschedule the hearing.

Section 14: Hearings

- 1) The hearings are open to the public, including members of other teams.
- 2) Selected hearings may be live-streamed and/or recorded.

Section 15: Bench

- 1) The Bench follows its rules and procedures in accordance with accepted judicial practice.
- 2) The Bench scores the hearing by single evaluation. The Bench will inform the teams immediately after deliberating on the result of the oral presentation.

Section 16: Scoring of Presentation

- 1) During the deliberations, the Bench will attribute a score to each team, selecting the winning team and the best speaker.
- 2) The maximum score that can be obtained is 50 points. Points are allocated as follows:
 - Knowledge and understanding of the facts of the case. Max 10 points.
 - Knowledge and understanding of the legal issues of the case. Max 10 points.
 - Use and understanding of the law and administration of criminal justice jurisprudence. Max 10 points.
 - Legal Reasoning. Max 10 points.
 - Overall presentation. Max 10 points.

Section 17: Penalty Points and Behaviour

- 1) Every team shall maintain the utmost dignity and decorum throughout the competition.
- 2) The organiser and the Bench reserve the right to allocate penalty points in the event of any violation of the rules or inappropriate behaviour.
- 3) Inappropriate behaviour may result in the disqualification of the team at any stage of the competition.

Section 18: Awards

The organiser will give awards and prizes during the awards session, including:

- 1) First place
- 2) Second place

Each team member will receive a certificate of participation.

Section 19: Modification of the Rules

The organiser reserves the right to modify the rules at any time without prior notice. Modifications will immediately be sent to the teams.