



**SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY
LAW SOCIETY**

**2021 SULLS Client Interviewing
Multilateral Intervarsity
Competition**

1. Competition Name

1.1. This competition will be known as the **Client Interviewing Multilateral Intersarsity Competition** (the “Competition”).

2. Definitions

2.1. “Competitions Team”: The sub-committee appointed to run the Competition.

2.2. “Convenor”: The Convenor(s) who is responsible for the administration of the Client Interviewing Competition.

2.3. “SULS”: Sydney University Law Society.

3. Participation and Eligibility

3.1. Each law school may nominate up to two teams of two (2) people (together, one team) to compete in the Competition.

3.2. If invited by the Convenor, competitors from non-affiliated law schools may enter the competition, provided that their competitors comply with all other requirements as specified in these rules.

3.3. Team members must not have graduated with a law degree in any jurisdiction before the first day of the Client Interviewing Competition Preliminary Rounds.

Penalty: Failure to comply with this rule may result in disqualification at the discretion of the Competitions Team.

4. Registration

4.1. Teams must register by the registration date as set by the Convenors.

4.2. By registering for the Competition, all competitors:

4.2.1. Agree to be bound by the rules outlined in this document.

4.2.2. Consent to their image being photographed, filmed and published by SULS.

4.2.2.1. Competitors may request not to be photographed, filmed or published by sending a written request to an email address nominated by the Convenors, to be decided at their discretion.

4.3. The Convenors shall allocate all teams entering the competition a random team number, which will be used to identify teams in place of their university name.

5. Problem Questions

5.1. The problem questions must be specifically written for the Competition and must not have been used in any previous competition.

5.2. Every effort will be made to ensure that the problem question is constructed in a way that does not disadvantage or advantage participants from any particular jurisdiction.

5.3. Preliminary Round Problems

5.3.1. Teams will be asked to prepare a different Problem for each Preliminary Round.

5.3.2. The draw and Problem Memos for the Preliminary Rounds will be released via email on the 9th of October, 2021.

5.4. Finals Rounds Problems

5.4.1. Problem Memos for the Semi Final rounds will be released at the conclusion of the Preliminary Rounds, following the announcement of their results.

5.4.2. Problem Memos for the Grand Final will be released at the conclusion of the Semi Finals.

6. Competition Structure

6.1. The Competition is comprised of Preliminary Rounds (see Rule 7) and Knockout Rounds (see Rule 11).

7. Preliminary Rounds

7.1. All teams will compete in each Preliminary Round.

Penalty: Failure to comply with Rule 7.1 may result in disqualification.

7.2. Teams may not observe, nor are they to be briefed on, proceedings of a Preliminary Round in which they are not competing.

Penalty: Failure to comply with Rule 7.2 may result in disqualification.

7.3. Competitors may not use electronic transmission devices at any time during the round (excepting the electronic transmission devices being used to establish the audio-visual link and for the use as timekeeping devices, see Rule 14.2).

7.3.1. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to: laptops, mobile phones and tablet computers.

7.3.2. Rule 7.3 does not apply to electronic transmission devices that are required for medical purposes.

7.3.3. The electronic transmission device being used to establish the audio-visual link may not be used for any other purpose. Penalty: Any contravention of Rule 7.3 may result in disqualification or a deduction of points.

7.3.4. Competitors will be allowed to use technology to communicate only between themselves. This is not limited to platforms such as a Google Document or Zoom chat room.

7.4. All teams will be ranked on a single ladder according to the process set out in Rule 8.

7.5. Judges may not disclose the scores of a Client Interview but are permitted to give general feedback to a team so long as it is not obvious from that feedback what scores the team received.

8. Progression to Knockout Rounds

8.1. The top (4) teams with the highest average points score from the preliminary rounds will progress to the semi-finals.

8.1.1. Where byes have been issued, the average of a competitor's total points (except for the bye) will be added to their awarded points.

8.2. The progressing teams (Semi Finalists) will be announced after the conclusion of the Preliminary Rounds.

9. Tiebreaks

9.1. This rule applies where:

9.1.1. Due to a tie in the average points score of two or more teams, the total number of teams that would advance from the preliminary rounds is greater than the number listed in Rule 8.1 without the operation of this rule; or

9.1.2. Due to a tie in the average points score of two or more teams, Rule 11.3 cannot be resolved without the operation of this rule.

9.2. The team(s) will progress according to the first of the following sequentially ordered sub-rules that applies and breaks the tie:

9.2.1. Where there are only two tied teams and those teams have faced each other in a preliminary round, the winner of that preliminary round shall progress; then

9.2.2. Where the tied teams were judged by the same Judge, the decision of the Judge shall determine the team that progresses; then

9.2.3. By random automated selection where each team has the same chance of proceedings after the application of the preceding rules.

10. Publishing of Scores

10.1. Competitors may request to be sent their scores and the Preliminary Rounds Ranking. Competitors may receive their preliminary round scores only.

10.1.1. Competitors may only request their scores after all Preliminary Rounds are complete. The Competitions Team must fulfil requests received in one week following the completion of the Preliminary Rounds.

10.1.1.1. Any requests received after midnight of the date three weeks following the completion of the Preliminary Rounds may be fulfilled at the Competitions Team's discretion.

10.1.2. Scores requested under Rule 10.1 will be provided to teams at the earliest convenience of the Competitions Team.

10.1.3. Scoresheets are released by the Competitions Team to provide further educational value. No appeals are permitted on the basis of scoresheets or rankings.

10.2. Teams may not request to view the scores of other teams.

10.3. Scores will be provided electronically.

11. Finals Rounds

11.1. The Finals Rounds will consist of Semi Final and Grand Final Rounds.

11.2. Teams may not observe, nor are they to be briefed on, proceedings of a Finals Round unless they have been eliminated from the competition.

11.3. **Semi Finals**

11.3.1. Each team will receive a score equal to the average total score of the Judges that viewed their semi-final; and

11.3.2. The two teams with the highest average total score will proceed to the Grand Final.

11.3.3 In the event that two teams from the same university progress to the Semi Finals, these two teams will be allocated to compete against each other such that only one team will progress to the Grand Final.

11.5. Grand Final

11.5.1. The winner of the Grand Final will be determined by a majority decision of a panel of Judges.

11.5.2. The winners of the Grand Final will be announced at the conclusion of the Round.

12. Judging and Scoring

12.1. Every effort must be made by the Competitions Team and the competitors to ensure that Judges are unaware of the university teams are from during the competition.

12.1.1. Teams must not reveal their university to the Judges at any point during the competition.

12.1.2. Teams must not contact Judges after the competition unless specifically invited to do so by that particular Judge.

12.2. Where possible, Judges will have suitable legal qualifications or relevant experience. Judges will be judges, magistrates, legal practitioners, legal academics, student Judges or others with demonstrated relevant experience in competitions, and/or relevant professional experience.

12.3. Prior to their client interview, judges will be provided with:

12.3.1. The competition problem;

12.3.2. A judging guide;

12.3.3. A summary of the key rules of the competition;

12.3.4. A scoresheet; and

12.3.5. Scoring notes.

12.4. Judges will award each team a score out of 100.

12.5. Where there is more than one judge, each judge will be asked to produce an individual scoresheet.

12.5.1. Where there are three or more judges on the bench, the bench must reach a majority decision.

12.5.2. If a bench consists of more than one judge in the Preliminary Rounds, the judges' scores will be averaged for the purposes of rankings.

12.6. Judges may provide verbal feedback at the conclusion of the interview at their discretion as long as such feedback does not indirectly reveal the scores awarded in the Client Interview.

12.7. Judges must not allow teams to view or take their scoresheets; judges must return all scoresheets from their Client Interview to the Convenor.

12.8. Judges may request that observers and competitors leave the call while they deliberate. Outside of this discretion, observers may watch all segments of a round.

13. Conflicts of Interest

13.1. A Judge must not judge a Competitor with whom they have a conflict of interest.

13.1.1. A conflict of interest arises between a Judge and Competitor where, on the balance of probabilities, the relationship between the Judge and Competitor would give rise to an actual bias in favour or against the Competitor or be perceived as giving rise to a bias in favour or against the Competitor.

13.1.1.1. A conflict of interest is presumed to arise, but is not limited to, situations where the Judge and competitor:

13.1.1.1.1. Are siblings, child and parent, cousins, aunt/uncle and niece/nephew or any other close family relationship;

13.1.1.1.2. Are close personal friends;

13.1.1.1.3. Are currently engaged in a sexual and/or emotional relationship; or

13.1.1.1.4. Were engaged in a sexual and/or emotional relationship within the past twenty-four (24) months.

13.1.2. A conflict of interest will arise where, due to previous personal or professional dealings, the relationship between the Judge and the Competitor creates a serious risk that the Judge will not fairly judge the Competitor.

13.1.3. A student judge will only have a conflict of interest where, other than in the circumstances outlined at Rule 13.1.1, the student judge and the competitors attend the same university.

14. Timekeeping and Spectating

14.1. Responsibility for timekeeping and adherence to allotted time periods and breaks rests with the Judges.

14.2. Competitors may use an electronic timing device (e.g. phone) for timekeeping purposes during a Client Interview.

14.3. Decisions by judges as to elapsed times are final and non-reviewable, except in cases where the error is plain and substantial.

14.4. Subject to Rules 7.2 and 11.2, spectating is encouraged. However, in order to minimise disruption, spectators should mute their microphones for the duration of the round, turn off their video and not enter or leave the round whilst a competitor is speaking.

15. Research and Preparation

15.1. All research and preparation for the rounds must be conducted solely by competitors. Teams may receive general advice and assistance with respect to skills relevant to the competition and feedback on practices prior to the release of the question. After the release of the question and until the completion of the Competition, competitors may not receive any advice or assistance.

Penalty: Any contravention of Rule 15.1 may result in disqualification or a deduction of points.

16. Clients

16.1. Clients are to be supplied by the applicant teams.

16.2. Clients must not be from the team's University.

16.3. Clients will receive their materials at least thirty (30) minutes before the commencement of that round.

16.4. Client materials will include:

16.4.1. The client statement;

16.4.2. A detailed memo containing the client's background, objectives and concerns; and

16.4.3. A sheet setting out the confidential facts on the problem.

16.5. Clients are permitted to refer to their instructions whilst being interviewed.

17. Structure of the Interview

17.1. A round should last for no more than one hour.

17.1.1. Thirty minutes is allocated to a consultation with the client during which teams are expected to elicit the relevant information, outline the problem, and propose a solution or other means of resolving the problem.

17.1.1.1. There will be a warning one (1) minute before the end of the consultation.

17.1.1.2. A team must stop speaking when asked to do so by the Judge.

Penalty: Continuation of the interview beyond 30 minutes without the Judge's express permission or beyond the extended time: one (1) mark penalty for every minute or part thereof exceeded.

17.1.2. Five (5) minutes is allocated to an optional break for teams to prepare for self reflection.

17.1.3. Ten (10) minutes is allocated to a self-reflection period, where the team may summarise the interview, indicate the scope of the legal work to be undertaken and state the legal issues that should be researched.

Penalty: Continuation of self-reflection beyond 10 minutes have elapsed: one (1) mark for every minute or part thereof.

17.1.4. Ten (10) minutes is allocated for the judge to provide feedback to the team on their interview and self-reflection.

17.1.4.1. Clients may not be present during the feedback.

17.2. Teams are free to use books, notes and other materials throughout the interview and self-reflection period.

17.3. Competitors must not be more than five (5) minutes late for the commencement of the round.

Penalty: If a competitor is more than five (5) minutes late for the commencement of the round, a penalty of two (2) marks per five (5) minutes or part thereof after the initial five minute grace period shall be applied to the relevant round.