MOHAMMAD ABDUL BARI INSTITUTE OF JURIDICAL SCIENCE

MABIJS MOOT COURT SOCIETY

NATIONAL LEGAL DRAFTING COMPETITION, 2026

OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

Organised by: MABIJS Moot Court Society
Mohammad Abdul Bari Institute of Juridical Science

Mode: [Hybrid]
Registration Opens: [01.11.2026]
Registration Closes: [30.11.2026]
Last Date of Submission: [15.12.2026]
Official Website: https://events.mabijs.in
Contact: mootsociety@mabijs.in

PART I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

RULE 1. INTRODUCTION

The MABIJS National Legal Drafting Competition, 2026, is organised by the MABIJS Moot Court Society, under the aegis of Mohammad Abdul Bari Institute of Juridical Science.

The competition aims to provide law students with an opportunity to demonstrate and develop their practical legal drafting abilities through simulated legal problems based on contemporary legal issues and professional legal practice.

Unlike conventional moot court competitions, which primarily assess oral advocacy and memorial preparation, this competition focuses on the construction of legally sound, procedurally appropriate and professionally structured legal documents.

The competition shall provide participants with an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of substantive law, procedural law, legal research, analytical reasoning and professional drafting conventions.

RULE 2. OBJECTIVES

1. To promote practical legal education through professional legal drafting exercises.
2. To develop participants' ability to translate factual circumstances into legally sustainable documents.
3. To encourage independent legal research and critical analysis.
4. To enhance knowledge of substantive and procedural laws applicable in India.
5. To familiarise participants with professional standards of legal documentation.
6. To encourage precision, clarity and logical organisation in legal writing.
7. To create a platform for interaction between law students, academicians and legal professionals.

RULE 3. DEFINITIONS

- Organisers: MABIJS Moot Court Society and the organising institution.
- Competition: MABIJS National Legal Drafting Competition, 2026.
- Participant: An eligible individual or team registered for the competition.
- Draft: The legal document prepared and submitted by a participant in accordance with the applicable problem proposition.
- Problem Proposition: The factual and legal scenario released by the organisers for the purpose of the competition.
- Submission: The final legal draft uploaded by a registered participant.
- Evaluation Committee: The panel appointed by the organisers to assess the submissions.
- Final Round: The presentation and defence stage, if conducted, for shortlisted participants.

PART II – ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

RULE 4. ELIGIBILITY

8. The competition shall be open to students pursuing either a three-year LL.B. or a five-year integrated LL.B. programme from a recognised university or institution in India.
9. Students enrolled in recognised law institutions shall be eligible to participate, irrespective of their semester or year of study.
10. Participation shall be permitted individually only.

11. A participant must satisfy the eligibility requirements.
12. A participant may register for only one drafting category.
13. A participant shall not be permitted to change their category after the registration deadline without prior written approval from the organisers.
14. The organisers reserve the right to verify the academic credentials and institutional affiliation of any participant.

RULE 5. REGISTRATION

15. Registration shall be completed through the official registration link : **https://forms.gle/ginF5E2hE6J7QoYu7**
16. Participants shall furnish accurate personal, academic and institutional information.
17. Registration shall be considered complete only upon successful submission of the registration form and payment of the prescribed registration fee, wherever applicable.
18. The registration fee shall be: Individual participation: ₹250 for each specific category;
19. The registration fee, once paid, shall not ordinarily be refundable, except when the organisers cancel the competition or otherwise decide in exceptional circumstances.
20. No registration shall be accepted after the notified deadline unless expressly permitted by the organisers.
21. Registered participants shall receive a confirmation email containing their registration details and participant identification code.

Payment QR Code:

UPI ID: purkait.rahulp@oksbi

PART III – COMPETITION CATEGORIES

RULE 6. DRAFTING CATEGORIES

Participants shall select one of the following four categories when registering.

CATEGORY I – CIVIL LITIGATION DRAFTING

This category shall assess participants' ability to prepare civil litigation documents in accordance with applicable substantive and procedural laws.

- Plaint
- Written Statement
- Application for Temporary Injunction
- Application under Order VII Rule 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908
- Civil Revision Petition
- Other civil procedural document specified in the proposition.

CATEGORY II – CRIMINAL LITIGATION DRAFTING

This category shall assess participants' understanding of criminal law, criminal procedure and the drafting of appropriate judicial applications.

- Regular Bail Application
- Anticipatory Bail Application
- Criminal Revision Petition
- Discharge Application
- Criminal Appeal
- Other criminal procedural document specified in the proposition.

CATEGORY III – CONSTITUTIONAL AND WRIT DRAFTING

This category shall assess participants' ability to prepare constitutional remedies and related legal documents.

- Writ Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India
- Public Interest Litigation
- Counter-Affidavit
- Rejoinder Affidavit
- Constitutional Challenge Petition
- Other constitutional document specified in the proposition.

CATEGORY IV – CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL DRAFTING

This category shall evaluate participants' understanding of commercial transactions, contractual obligations and corporate legal documentation.

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Non-Disclosure Agreement
- Shareholders' Agreement
- Commercial Agreement
- Joint Venture Agreement
- Service Agreement
- Other commercial document specified in the proposition.

Note: The organisers shall specify the exact document to be drafted in the respective problem proposition. The above list is indicative and does not authorise participants to select a different document independently.

PART IV – PROBLEM PROPOSITION AND DRAFTING REQUIREMENTS

RULE 7. RELEASE OF PROBLEM PROPOSITION

22. The organisers shall release the problem propositions through the official communication channels.
23. Each category shall have a separate problem proposition.
24. The proposition shall contain the relevant facts, background, legal issues and drafting instructions.
25. Participants shall prepare their documents strictly on the basis of the proposition and the applicable law.
26. Participants may identify and address additional legal issues reasonably arising from the given facts.
27. Participants shall not introduce material facts that are inconsistent with the proposition.
28. Where assumptions are necessary to complete a draft, such assumptions must be reasonable, clearly identified and consistent with the given facts.

29. Any clarification regarding the proposition must be sought exclusively through the official communication channel within the prescribed clarification period.
30. Clarifications issued by the organisers shall be binding on all participants in the relevant category.

RULE 8. NATURE OF SUBMISSION

31. Each participant or team shall submit one principal legal document corresponding to the category selected.
32. The submission must reflect the form, structure and professional conventions applicable to that particular legal document.
33. The document must be legally coherent, factually consistent and procedurally appropriate.
34. The submission must not be an essay, research paper, case comment or general discussion of the legal issue.
35. The document must demonstrate practical application of legal principles to the facts provided.
36. Supporting schedules, annexures or relevant documents may be included only where appropriate to the principal draft and permitted by the proposition.

PART V – FORMATTING AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

RULE 9. FORMATTING

Particular	Requirement
Paper size	A4
Orientation	Portrait
Font	Times New Roman
Main text size	12 pt
Footnote size	10 pt
Line spacing	1.5
Alignment	Justified
Margins	1 inch on all sides
Citation style	OSCOLA 4th Edition or the specific style prescribed by the organisers
File format	PDF and DOCX
Language	English

37. The document must be properly paginated.
38. Headings and subheadings must be appropriately numbered and arranged.
39. All statutory provisions, judicial authorities and other legal sources relied upon must be accurately cited.
40. Participants must maintain consistency in formatting and citation throughout the document.
41. Decorative elements, institutional logos and personal identification details must not be included in the submitted draft.

RULE 10. WORD LIMIT

42. The maximum permissible word limit shall be 3,500 words.
43. The word count shall exclude the cover page, index or table of contents, list of abbreviations, list of authorities, footnotes and endnotes, and annexures and schedules where permitted.
44. The word count shall include the substantive body of the legal document, including pleadings, grounds, arguments, clauses and prayers, as applicable.
45. Participants must not exceed the prescribed word limit.

46. Any material exceeding the prescribed limit may attract deductions or other penalties at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee.
47. Participants shall not sacrifice essential legal requirements merely to reduce the word count.

PART VI – ORIGINALITY, PLAGIARISM AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

RULE 11. ORIGINALITY

48. All submissions must be original work prepared specifically for this competition.
49. Participants shall not copy, reproduce or substantially imitate another person's work without proper acknowledgement.
50. The use of previously submitted competition drafts, published pleadings or sample legal documents as a substitute for independent drafting is prohibited.
51. All external sources, including statutes, judicial decisions, commentaries and academic publications, must be appropriately acknowledged.
52. Fabricated judicial authorities, incorrect citations knowingly presented as genuine and invented statutory provisions shall constitute serious misconduct.

RULE 12. SIMILARITY POLICY

53. The permissible similarity threshold shall be 10%.
54. All submissions may be subjected to plagiarism or similarity-detection software.
55. Properly cited quotations, statutory provisions, standard legal terminology, case names and conventional legal expressions may be excluded from the final similarity assessment where appropriate.
56. Similarity shall be assessed in context and not merely on the basis of the numerical percentage generated by software.
57. The Evaluation Committee shall have the authority to examine suspected instances of plagiarism independently.
58. A submission found to contain substantial unattributed copying may be rejected or disqualified.

RULE 13. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

59. Participants must independently undertake the substantive legal research, legal analysis and preparation of the draft.
60. Generative AI tools, including ChatGPT and other AI-assisted drafting platforms, shall not be used to generate or substantially rewrite the substantive portions of the submitted legal document.
61. Limited use of digital tools for spelling correction, grammar checking, formatting and non-substantive proofreading may be permitted.
62. Participants shall remain fully responsible for the accuracy of all legal provisions, judicial authorities, citations and factual statements.
63. The use of AI tools to fabricate case laws, statutory provisions or legal authorities is strictly prohibited.
64. The permitted AI-use threshold shall be 10%, subject to the nature of the tool, the type of assistance and the applicable assessment methodology.
65. Participants shall disclose any permitted AI assistance in the prescribed declaration.
66. AI-detection reports shall not, by themselves, constitute conclusive proof of misconduct. Any suspected violation shall be reviewed by the Evaluation Committee.
67. Concealment of prohibited AI-generated substantive drafting may result in disqualification.

PART VII – SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

RULE 14. SUBMISSION

68. All submissions must be uploaded through the official submission link: **https://forms.gle/gAQjVF5T2XckvwWQ7**

69. Participants must upload both PDF and editable DOCX versions of their final drafts, unless otherwise notified.
70. The file names must follow the prescribed format: Category_ParticipantCode.
71. Participants must not mention their names, institution names, personal email addresses or other identifying information anywhere in the draft.
72. Each submission must be accompanied by a duly completed declaration of originality and compliance.
73. The final submission must be received before the notified deadline.
74. Incomplete, corrupted or inaccessible files may be rejected.
75. Participants shall be responsible for ensuring successful submission.
76. A submission shall not be treated as complete merely because a participant has filled in the registration form.
77. Any request for correction or replacement of a submitted draft shall be subject to the prior approval of the organisers.

RULE 15. LATE SUBMISSION

78. Submissions received after the prescribed deadline shall ordinarily not be accepted.
79. The organisers may consider exceptional circumstances where a participant establishes genuine technical or other unavoidable difficulties.
80. Any extension shall be granted solely at the discretion of the organisers and must be communicated officially.

PART VIII – EVALUATION AND JUDGING

RULE 16. EVALUATION PROCESS

81. Each submission shall be evaluated by a panel appointed by the organisers.
82. The Evaluation Committee may consist of academicians, practising advocates, legal researchers and other persons with relevant professional expertise.
83. The evaluation shall be conducted on an anonymous basis wherever practicable.
84. Each submission shall be assessed according to the prescribed evaluation rubric.
85. The judges shall independently evaluate the legal correctness, practical applicability, structure and drafting quality of the document.
86. The organisers may appoint more than one evaluator for a submission.
87. The decision of the Evaluation Committee shall be final, subject to the provisions of this Rulebook.

RULE 17. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each submission shall be evaluated out of 100 marks.

Evaluation parameter	Marks
Understanding of facts and identification of legal issues	15
Applicable law and legal research	20

Structure and drafting technique	20
Legal reasoning and grounds	15
Reliefs sought and procedural correctness	15
Language, clarity and precision	10
Formatting and citation compliance	5
TOTAL	100

A. Understanding of Facts and Identification of Legal Issues – 15 Marks

Assessment of the participant's ability to understand the factual background, identify relevant legal issues and distinguish material facts from immaterial facts.

B. Applicable Law and Legal Research – 20 Marks

Assessment of the correct identification and application of relevant statutory provisions, judicial precedents and other legal authorities.

C. Structure and Drafting Technique – 20 Marks

Assessment of the document's professional structure, logical arrangement, appropriate headings, drafting conventions and completeness.

D. Legal Reasoning and Grounds – 15 Marks

Assessment of the strength, coherence and legal sustainability of the grounds and reasoning incorporated in the document.

E. Reliefs Sought and Procedural Correctness – 15 Marks

Assessment of the appropriateness of the reliefs, prayers, jurisdiction, maintainability and compliance with relevant procedural requirements.

F. Language, Clarity and Precision – 10 Marks

Assessment of legal language, grammatical correctness, clarity, conciseness and professional expression.

G. Formatting and Citation Compliance – 5 Marks

Assessment of compliance with the prescribed formatting, pagination, citation and technical requirements.

RULE 18. SHORTLISTING AND FINAL ROUND

88. The organisers may shortlist the highest-scoring participants or teams in each category.
89. **The shortlisted participants will be invited to participate in a final presentation and drafting defence round to be held on 31.12.2026.**
90. The number of shortlisted participants shall be determined by the organisers and communicated officially.
91. During the final round, participants may be required to explain the structure and legal basis of their draft; identify applicable statutory provisions; defend their choice of legal grounds and reliefs; explain the procedural correctness of the document; and respond to questions from the judging panel.
92. The final round will be conducted online.
93. Failure to attend the final round without prior approval may result in disqualification from consideration for final awards.

94. The final ranking shall be determined on the basis of the written evaluation and the final-round performance.
95. The organisers shall announce the final-round marking distribution before the commencement of that round.

PART IX – AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

RULE 19. AWARDS

Award	Prize
Winner – Each Category	₹2500/-
First Runner-up – Each Category	₹1500/-
Second Runner-up – Each Category	₹1000/-

96. Awards shall be announced separately for the four drafting categories.
97. The organisers may modify the award structure before the commencement of the competition.
98. Certificates shall be awarded to the winners, runners-up and other eligible participants as determined by the organisers.
99. Participation certificates may be issued to participants who submit a valid draft in accordance with the competition rules.
100. The organisers reserve the right not to award a particular prize where the submissions do not meet the required standards.
101. The decision regarding awards and rankings shall be final.

PART X – CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS

RULE 20. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Participants are expected to maintain professional standards throughout the competition. The following acts shall constitute misconduct:

- Plagiarism or substantial unauthorised copying.
- Fabrication or misrepresentation of legal authorities.
- Submission of false academic or registration information.
- Disclosure of participant identity in an anonymous submission.
- Unauthorised collaboration with persons outside the registered team.
- Obtaining or attempting to obtain confidential evaluation information.
- Attempting to influence judges or members of the organising committee.
- Using prohibited AI tools to prepare substantive portions of the draft.
- Misrepresentation of another person's work as one's own.
- Any conduct that undermines the fairness, integrity or reputation of the competition.

RULE 21. PENALTIES

Depending upon the nature and seriousness of the violation, the organisers may impose one or more of the following penalties:

- Warning.
- Deduction of marks.
- Rejection of submission.
- Disqualification from the competition.

- Withdrawal of awards or certificates, where misconduct is discovered after declaration of results.
- Restriction from participation in future events organised by the institution, where justified.

The decision shall be taken after providing the concerned participant a reasonable opportunity to explain the circumstances, wherever appropriate.

PART XI – DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

RULE 22. QUERIES AND CLARIFICATIONS

102. All official queries shall be addressed to the designated email address or communication channel notified by the organisers.
103. Participants shall not contact individual judges regarding their submissions or evaluation.
104. Clarifications issued by the organisers shall be binding upon all participants.

RULE 23. DISPUTES

105. Any complaint concerning registration, submission or procedural irregularity must be submitted in writing within the time prescribed by the organisers.
106. Complaints must contain sufficient particulars and supporting material.
107. The organisers shall examine complaints and take appropriate decisions.
108. No participant shall be entitled to demand a change in the marks awarded by an evaluator merely on the basis of disagreement with the evaluator's academic or professional assessment.
109. The decision of the organising institution on administrative and procedural matters shall be final.

RULE 24. RIGHTS OF THE ORGANISERS

- Amend the schedule, rules or competition arrangements where necessary.
- Modify the mode of conducting the competition.
- Extend registration or submission deadlines.
- Cancel or postpone the competition due to unavoidable circumstances.
- Reject incomplete or non-compliant submissions.
- Take appropriate action against participants violating the rules.
- Issue supplementary instructions wherever necessary.

Any substantial amendment shall be communicated through the official communication channels.

PART XII – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PUBLICATION

RULE 25. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

110. The copyright and intellectual property rights in the drafts shall remain with their respective authors, subject to applicable law.
111. Participants grant the organisers a non-exclusive, royalty-free permission to reproduce, display or publish winning and shortlisted submissions for academic and promotional purposes, with appropriate attribution and subject to the participant's consent.
112. The organisers shall not commercially exploit a participant's submission without obtaining appropriate permission.
113. Participants shall ensure that their submissions do not violate any third-party intellectual property rights.

114. The organisers may publish selected submissions in an academic compilation, institutional publication or other educational platform, subject to appropriate consent.

PART XIII – DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

Every participant must submit the following declaration along with the final draft.

DECLARATION

We hereby declare that the legal draft submitted by us for the MABIJS National Legal Drafting Competition, 2026, is our original work prepared specifically for this competition.

We further declare that:

- The submission has not been plagiarised or substantially copied from any existing work.
- All legal authorities, statutory provisions and external sources relied upon have been appropriately acknowledged.
- No fabricated or knowingly misleading legal authority has been incorporated.
- We have complied with the prescribed Artificial Intelligence Policy and have disclosed any permitted AI assistance.
- We have not received unauthorised assistance in preparing the substantive portions of the draft.
- We have read and agreed to abide by all provisions of the official Rulebook.

PARTICIPANT 1

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PART XIV – PROPOSED COMPETITION TIMELINE

Activity	Date
Release of official notification	01.11.2026
Commencement of registration	01.11.2026
Last date of registration	30.11.2026
Release of problem propositions	05.12.2026
Final submission deadline	15.12.2026
Announcement of shortlisted participants	24.12.2026
Final drafting defence round	30.12.2026
Declaration of results	31.12.2026
Distribution of certificates and awards	To be announced

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

For all official updates, participants are advised to follow the official communication channels of MABIJS Moot Court Society.

END OF RULEBOOK