



**CENTRE FOR ADR,
IFIM SCHOOL OF LAW**
in collaboration with **KAMAL & Co.
ADVOCATES**

Presents

CONCORDAT 3.0

3rd NATIONAL ADR COMPETITION



MED-ARB RULEBOOK

Table of Contents

Short title & Commencement	01
Definition.	01-02
Interpretation of Rules	03
Eligibility	03
Team Composition	03
Registration	04
Anonymity of Teams	05
Structure of the Competition	05-06
Assessment Criterion	07-08
Written submissions	09-10
Dress Code	10
Penalty	11
Awards	11
Miscellaneous	12
Important dates	13
Contact details	14

SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

(i) The Mediation-Arbitration Competition shall hereinafter be referred to as “Concordat 3.0 Med-Arb Competition”.

(ii) The rules, awards and regulations of the Concordat 3.0 Med-Arb Competition are subject to changes. Any such amendment shall be notified to all the participants and jury panelists immediately until then reliance should be placed only on the guidelines mentioned herein below.

DEFINITIONS

In these guidelines, unless otherwise stated, a reference to the guideline is a reference to this guidebook of the “Concordat 3.0 Med-Arb Competition”. In these guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (i) “**Centre for ADR – IFIM Law School, Bengaluru**” is the organizing and administrating body for the Competition;
- (ii) “**Competition**” refers to the Concordat 3.0 Med-Arb Competition;
- (iii) “**Competition Rounds**” refers to the Preliminary Rounds, the Quarter-Final Rounds, the Semi-Final Rounds, the Final Round and any other rounds that the Competition Administrator may so designate.
- (iv) “**Organizing Committee**” refers to the members of the Centre for ADR student volunteer body, responsible for the administration and smooth conduct of the Competition, including all other members conferred with powers;
- (v) “**Counsels**” refers to students participating in the competition and assuming the role of a legal practitioner;
- (vi) “**Client**” refers to students participating in the competition and assuming the role of the party to the case;

- (vii)“**Mediator**” refers to students participating for the competition and assuming the role of the mediator to the dispute;
- (viii)“**Negotiating Team**” are the 2 students representing a team that have been admitted to act as Client and Counsel in the Competition.
- (ix)“**Requesting Party**” is the party to which the Competition has assigned the role of the party which has requested the Mediation or Arbitration;
- (x)“**Responding Party**” is the party to which the Competition has assigned the role of the party which has to respond to the request for the Mediation or Arbitration;
- (xi)“**Researcher**” refers to students qualifying to the Arbitration rounds and assuming the role of a researcher assisting the Counsel 1 and Counsel 2;
- (xii)“**Bench**” refers to the members duly invited by the Organizing Committee to adjudge/arbitrate any of the rounds;
- (xiii)“**Participant**” refers to any individual eligible for participating in the Competition;
- (xiv)“**Team**” refers to any team comprising of not more than three participants and includes only bonafide representatives of any University, may that be State, Central or any other department recognized/authorized and who have applied and registered for the Competition by complying with the procedure prescribed in the present rules;
- (xv)“**Team Code**” refers to a unique code assigned by the Organizing Committee which will be used to uniquely identify the team;
- (xvi)“**Clarifications**” refer to procedural order(s) and/or any clarification(s) issued by the administrator(s);
- (xvii)“**General Information**” refers to the factual information in relation to a Proposition that is provided to both parties;
- (xviii)“**Hidden Information**” means certain factual information containing confidential elements to be taken into account in determining the strategy and tactics of the Negotiating Teams in a given Session provided by the Committee to the applied and registered team;
- (xix)“**Penalty**” refers to the deductions imposed on the participating team/individual in breach of any rules, as provided by the Organizing Committee;
- (xx)“**Plagiarism**” refers to the direct or substantial duplication of the work from the Arbitration memorial of any other team through offline or online source(s);
- (xxi)“**Private Caucus**” refers to a part of the mediation session, which is a confidential meeting, where the mediator speaks individually with each party and in the absence of the other party.
- (xxii)“**Written submission/Memorial**” refers to the written arguments submitted by each team participating in the Competition, which will be marked and be used in case of tie breakers and the scores of which will be included in the scoresheet for the Arbitration Rounds.

INTERPRETATION OF RULES

(i) The Organizing Committee reserves the right to interpret the rules as it deems fit in order to ensure fairness and equality in the Competition. Any such interpretation shall be conclusive and the decision of the Organizing Committee for the application of the rules shall be final and binding.

(ii) The Organizing Committee may also amend, modify, change, or repeal any rule from the same, which shall be communicated to the teams in due time. In case of any conflict, the decision of the Organizing Committee shall be final and binding.

ELIGIBILITY

Law Students duly enrolled and representatives of any University, may that be State, Central, or any other department recognized/authorized may apply to participate in the Concordat 3.0 Med-Arb Competition.

TEAM COMPOSITION

(i) A team shall consist of three members that must include the Client, the Counsel, and the mediator for the Mediation Rounds and the same team shall adopt the role of two Counsels and one Researcher for the Arbitration Rounds. (There shall not be more than one team representing an Institution in the Med-Arb Format).

(ii) The members from the teams qualifying for the Arbitration Rounds may adopt the roles of Counsel 1, Counsel 2, and Researcher as per their choice. These roles must be filled accordingly in the registration form.

(iii) Any team, intending to change the composition of their team after they have filled their designated roles in the Registration Form either for the Mediation Rounds or the Arbitration Rounds shall inform the Organizing Committee by sending an e-mail to concordat@ifim.edu.in. Change will be allowed at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.

REGISTRATION

(i) General:

(a) Each Law School shall register to CONCORDAT 3.0 Med-Arb Competition provisionally, by filling out the provisional registration form, in the prescribed manner on or before 11:59 PM of 28th October 2023.

(b) Each team given a slot in the Competition must register to CONCORDAT 3.0 Med-Arb Competition, through final registration by filling out the final registration form, in the prescribed manner on or before 11:59 PM of 5th November 2023.

(c) Provisional Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/jszDQwUsjQsnmEQ58>

(d) For the Selection Process, the Organizing Committee will shortlist a total of 20 Teams out of all the Applicant Teams on a first-come-first basis, who have successfully completed the registration by the above-mentioned deadline.

(e) The Organizing Committee will communicate the acceptance of the provisional registration and e-mail the Final Registration form for the completion of the registration formalities. The teams are firmly encouraged to complete the registration process as soon as possible.

(f) On receipt of the duly filled-in registration form, the Organizing Committee shall respond to the participating team, acknowledging the final registration.

(g) After the deadline for the final registration expires, the Organizing Committee shall respond to each registered team, with a unique team code, which shall be used to identify the teams during the Competition.

(ii) Registration Fee:

(a) The registration fee for the Competition is ₹3000/- per person with accommodation and ₹2500/- per person without accommodation. In the event of withdrawal, no refund shall be provided.

(b) The registration fee for the CONCORDAT 3.0 Med-Arb Competition can be paid through electronic transfers. The payment shall be made to the following Bank Account:

Bank: Axis Bank

Account Name: IFIM LAW SCHOOL

Account No : 922010033169523

Customer ID : 102021460

Branch. : Koramangala

IFSC Code : UTIB0000194

ANONYMITY OF TEAMS

- (i) Teams shall not reveal their identity in any form during the Competition, except by the refers to their Team Code as given by the Organizing Committee.
- (ii) Any material presented to the Panel should be devoid of any identification mark(s)/seal(s) of the Team. If any such mark(s)/seal(s) exist, it must be rendered unrecognizable before being presented to the judges.
- (iii) Any violation of the aforementioned rules shall attract severe penalty or disqualification as determined by the Organizing Committee. The decision of the Organizing Committee in this regard shall be final and binding, not subject to challenge.

STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

(i) GENERAL:

- (a)The formal commencement of the Competition shall be from December 15th, 2023.
- (b)The Competition shall have two Preliminary Rounds, one Quarter Final Round, one Semi-Final Round and a Final Round which will be followed by the valedictory ceremony.
- (c)The Proposition for each Mediation Round will consist of:
 - a.General information for all the parties;
 - b.Hidden information for each party in dispute.
- (d)The background of the dispute in the proposition for the Mediation Rounds will remain the same. However, the parties to the dispute and the general information containing the crux of the dispute will evolve between the rounds.
- (e)The hidden information (Confidential Information) will be released to the negotiating team 30 minutes prior to the rounds.
- (f)The Proposition for each Arbitration Round will consist of General information for all the parties.
- (g)The Background of the dispute and the General Information provided will stay the same throughout both the Arbitration Rounds meaning that the proposition for Arbitration in the Competition will not evolve in any manner.

(ii) **ROUNDS :**

• **PRELIMINARY ROUNDS**

1. The two Preliminary Rounds shall be Mediation sessions, wherein, the teams shall be allotted a total of **30 minutes** including the Private Caucus session.
2. In the case of a tie in any round (Mediation and/or Arbitration Rounds), Memorial scores will be referred to break the same.
3. Top 8 teams shall qualify for the Quarter Final Round.

• **QUARTERFINAL ROUNDS**

1. The Quarter-Final Round shall be a Mediation session.
2. The top 8 teams shall compete in this round, which will be a knockout round, after which 4 teams in total shall proceed to the next round.
3. In the case of a tie in any round (Mediation and/or Arbitration Rounds), Memorial scores will be referred to break the same.
4. Each round shall be of a total of **40 minutes**, including the Private Caucus session.

• **SEMIFINAL ROUNDS**

1. The Semi-Final round shall be an Arbitration round.
2. A total of **50 minutes** will be given to the teams to present their case (Each team- 25 mins inclusive of rebuttals).
3. The time frame of 50 minutes for this Round includes the questioning time allotted to the bench. However, the parties can request an extension of time to present their arguments which shall be granted at the discretion of the bench.
4. This Round will be a knock-out round, from where 2 teams shall qualify for the Final round.

• **FINAL ROUNDS.**

1. The Final Round will follow the Semi-Finals Round, which would be an Arbitration round.
2. A total of **60 minutes** will be given to the teams to present their case (Each team- 30 mins inclusive of rebuttals).
3. The time frame of 50 minutes for this Round includes the questioning time allotted to the bench. However, the parties can request an extension of time to present their arguments which shall be granted at the discretion of the bench.
4. The team with the highest cumulative score in this round will be declared the Winner.

ASSESSMENT CRITERION

The Teams will be evaluated by the Bench based on the following criteria:

- **Preliminary and Quarter-Final Rounds**

- a. **Evaluation Criteria for the Mediator**

- i. Opening statement
- ii. Establishing a working atmosphere
- iii. Mediation process
- iv. Effective communication and mediation skills
- v. Profiling parties interests
- vi. Comprehending party's apprehension
- vii. Eliciting information
- viii. Facilitating option generation
- ix. Sensitivity to ethical and cross-cultural issues
- x. Closing Statement

- b. **Evaluation Criteria for the Client-Counsel**

- i. Opening statements
- ii. Relationship-building and problem solving
- iii. Advocating interests
- iv. Information gathering
- v. Mutually generating creative options
- vi. Collaborating with the other party
- vii. Teamwork and coordination
- viii. Use of mediator
- ix. Mediation strategy

- **Semifinal and Final Rounds**

- c. **Evaluation Criteria for Arbitration Round**

- I. **Oral Rounds**

- i. Knowledge of facts and evidence on record
- ii. Proper articulation of the issues, knowledge of law, and its interpretation and application
- iii. Skill of advocacy, persuasiveness, and response to questions
- iv. Use of Authorities and Exhibits in persuading the Arbitrators
- v. General impression and mannerism
- vi. Coordination between the team members
- vii. Time management

II. Memorial Marking

Proper inclusion of parties, identification of issues and nature of relief sought	10 marks
Knowledge and application of facts and law	15 marks
Quality of analysis and organization	10 marks
Persuasiveness of argument	10 marks
Use of authorities and Exhibits/Other relevant evidence	15 marks
Proper citation and correct format	10 marks
Originality in presentation	10 marks
General impression and clarity of thought	10 marks
Grammar and style of presentation	10 marks

Memorial scores in Semi-Final Rounds will be computed along with speakers' scores to qualify for the Final Round.

Final Round results will be based on oral arguments only.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Each team will be required to submit two sets of Memorials (from both sides) for the Arbitration problem; the problem shall be given to the teams by the Organizing Committee. The memorials would be provided to the Bench at the time of Rounds and will be used by the Bench in their marking or questioning.

- **Structure of the Written Submissions:**

Each written submission must contain all of and only, the following components in the following order:

1. Cover Page- (Claimant Cover Page- Blue in Color and Respondent Cover Page- Pink in Color);
2. Table of Contents;
3. Table of Abbreviations;
4. Index of Authorities;
5. Statement of Jurisdiction;
6. Statement of Facts;
7. Issues Raised;
8. Summary of Arguments;
9. Arguments Advanced/Pleadings; (not more than 20 pages);
10. Prayer.

- **Format of the Arbitration Memorial:**

1. Font Style – Times New Roman;
2. Title Font Size – 14;
3. Body Font Size – 12;
4. Line Spacing – 1.5;
5. Footnote Font Size – 10;
6. Footnote Line Spacing – 1;
7. Citation Format – 21st edition of Bluebook Citation;
8. Team Code – The team codes provided by the Organizing Committee have to be mentioned on the top right corner of the cover page of the Arbitration Memorial.

- Further instructions regarding the submission of memorials will be communicated to the participating teams.

(iii) **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:**

The official language of the Competition shall be English. All written and/or oral submissions made to and/or before the judges shall be in English.

DRESS CODE

The participants shall adhere to the following dress code while in the courtrooms:

- (i) Ladies: White shirt and black trousers or skirt along with a black blazer.
- (ii) Gentlemen: White shirt, black trousers, a black tie, a black blazer and black shoes.

PENALTY

(i) Scouting:

No member of any team other than the team they are a part of or the team which is not one of the participating teams whilst that team is a part of the Competition, shall gather any kind of information on opposing teams or participants without proper authorization. It shall include unauthorized observation, data collection or any covert activities aimed at gaining a competitive advantage. If this rule is violated, the Organising Committee shall take strict actions, which may include but may not be limited to, the expulsion of the said team from the Competition.

(ii) Disclosure of Identity:

Teams shall not disclose their identity, i.e., the name of their institution, city, etc., or any other information that has the effect of disclosing their identity and affiliation with a particular university or institution. Such disclosure shall result in disqualification, subject to the discretion of the Organizers.

(iii) Exceeding Time:

If any participant exceeds the time limit of the rounds provided in these guidelines, then 0.5 marks will be deducted for each exceeding minute from their scores. The Bench will have the authority to waive the same.

AWARDS

Participation certificates will be given to all the participants. The following awards will be distributed during the valedictory ceremony:

- Winners- Rs. 30,000/- & an Internship opportunity with BIMACC!
- Runners Up- Rs. 15,000/- & an Internship opportunity with BIMACC!
- Best Mediator- Rs.5000/- (based on the Preliminary Rounds)
- Best Counsel- Rs. 5000/- (based on the Preliminary Rounds)
- Best Client- Rs. 5000/- (based on the Preliminary Rounds)

MISCELLANEOUS

- (i) No team shall indulge in any act of misconduct during the Competition, undermining the credibility of judges or that of the Competition. Any act to the contrary may lead to immediate disqualification from the Competition without scope of appeal.
- (ii) All the teams shall be bound to follow the code of conduct and the rules laid down by the organizers.
- (iii) Any behavior of indiscipline with the Organizing Committee or any other student or volunteer body shall be dealt with strictly and may lead to immediate disqualification from the Competition without the scope of appeal.
- (iv) No team shall ask for feedback immediately on completion of any round. However, at the end of all the rounds, the participants may talk to the judges, with the minimum inconvenience caused to them.
- (v) Any attempt to approach the framer of the office memo or the panel of judges of the Competition, prior to the Competition shall be dealt with strictly and may lead to immediate disqualification from the Competition without the scope of appeal.
- (vi) No team is allowed to use mobile phones during any of the observation rounds, for the purposes of research, phone call, texting, or any other purposes.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Date for Provisional Registration	28th October 2023
Last Date for Final Registration	5th November 2023
Release of the Problems	10th November 2023.
Last Date for seeking clarifications	20th November2023
Release of Clarifications	25th November 2023
Submission of Memorial (Soft Copy)	8th December 2023
Preliminary Rounds (1&2)	15th December 2023
Quarter and Semi-Finals	16th December 2023
Final Round	17th December 2023

CONTACT DETAILS

For any queries, feel free to drop us an email at concordat@ifim.edu.in, the subject line should be “Clarifications: Problems or Rules”, or contact the following members of the Centre for ADR, IFIM School of Law:

Faculty Co-ordinators:

Prof. Pooja Ogale (Faculty Chair)

pooja.ogale@ifim.edu.in

Prof. Nithin Rajeev (Faculty Co-Chair)

nithin.rajeev@ifim.edu.in

Student Co-ordinators:

Rishabh Reddy (Convenor) – +91-7659977440

Nazneen Binu Bashir (Co- Convenor) – +91- 7406179188

Chanchal Chaturvedi (Secretary) – +91- 6266504099