



**QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL
MOOTING COMPETITION RULES 2024**

*A joint initiative of the Queensland University of Technology Law
School & QUT Law Society*



QUT Law
SOCIETY INC.

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MOOT CONVENOR:

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1. Teams

- 1.1 Each team participating in the QUT High School Moot (“Moot”) will be composed of two (2) speaking competitors. Teams may also have an additional non-speaking member.
- 1.2 All team members must read these competition rules carefully and are expected to be familiar with their contents. Participation in the Moot constitutes acceptance of the rules.
- 1.3 Unless otherwise stated in these rules, the penalties for breach of these rules will be at the discretion of the Moot Convenor.

2. Authorities

- 2.1 Students are to complete their own research guided by their moot mentor or coach.
- 2.2 In written and oral submissions, teams may only rely on cases and legislation cited in the list of authorities provided.
- 2.3 Teams may look at other cases, legislation, or secondary materials if they wish, but cannot rely on these authorities in their written or oral submissions.

3. Written submissions

- 3.1 Written submissions for both the prosecution and defence must be emailed to the Moot Convenor at james.duffy@qut.edu.au. These submissions must be sent by 11:59pm on Friday 19th July 2024.
- 3.2 Written submissions must also be emailed to opposition teams in the primary rounds. If there are two primary round moots, written submissions must be emailed to both opposition teams. A copy of the competition draw, and an email address for each team will be made available to all teams.
- 3.3 Written submissions for both the prosecution and the defence must be emailed to opposition teams by 11:59pm on Friday 26th July 2024.
- 3.4 Late submissions will incur a 10% reduction in the overall team mark for each 24-hour period or part thereof they are overdue. This deduction will be applied in each preliminary round and in the finals. The Moot Convenor has absolute discretion as to whether to apply the deduction considering all of the circumstances.
- 3.5 Each team is responsible for bringing one copy of their submissions for each presiding judge in each round of the competition. These must be identical to the submissions submitted via email. Each copy should be held together by a staple on the top left-hand corner of the page.

- 3.6 The prosecution submissions and the defendant submissions shall each be no more than two (2) A4 pages long.
- 3.7 Submissions must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, with page margins of no less than 2.54 cm.
- 3.8 No list of authorities is required, but full citations must be provided in the written submissions. Citations can be done in footnotes or within the text.
- 3.9 Written submissions must be clearly labelled with the team's number (as assigned by the Moot Convenor) and the opposing team's number included in the header of the document. Written submissions must not contain the name of the school that the team is representing.

4. Oral submissions

- 4.1 In each moot, each team will be represented by a Senior Counsel and a Junior Counsel. Speakers shall present in the following order, unless decided otherwise by the presiding judge(s):
 - Senior Counsel for the prosecution
 - Junior Counsel for the prosecution
 - Senior Counsel for the defendant
 - Junior Counsel for the defendant
- 4.2 Rebuttal and surrebuttal are permitted in this moot but are not mandatory. If the prosecution (rebuttal) or defence (surrebuttal) wish to engage in rebuttal/surrebuttal, they must inform the bench at the time of giving appearances.
- 4.3 Teams will have a total of 20 minutes in which to present their oral submissions (including rebuttal/surrebuttal). This time is to be divided approximately evenly (+/- 2 minutes) between the two speakers. Teams do not have to use the full 20 minutes allocated and will not be penalised if they speak for fewer than 20 minutes.
- 4.4 Judges may, at their discretion, grant an extension of time of up to two (2) minutes per speaker, provided that the teams request an extension of time from the bench in an appropriate manner.
- 4.5 Mooters can request to dispense with formal citations.
- 4.6 Team members will be given a warning for their time to expire when:
 - There is 5 minutes remaining.
 - There is 1 minute remaining.

- Time has elapsed.

- 4.7 Moot mentors and coaches must not communicate in any way with team members while a moot is in progress.
- 4.8 During oral presentations, teams must not use any device to access the internet or to otherwise communicate with persons outside the moot court. Mobile telephones may be used only for the purpose of keeping time but may be excluded at the discretion of the presiding judge(s).
- 4.9 During attendance and participation in the moot, all team members should appear in smart dress. School uniforms may, but are not required, to be worn.

5. Coaching and Moot Mentors

- 5.1 Coaches and moot mentors may provide general direction, feedback and advice but are not to devise written or oral arguments for the team. Oral and written arguments are to be devised solely by team members.
- 5.2 Coaches and Moot Mentors may conduct practice moots.
- 5.3 Coaches and Moot Mentors are welcome to attend the Moot but may not view moots other than those in which their team is competing. The exception to this is the Grand Final Moot. Coaches and teams are also allowed to watch the semi-final moots if their team is no longer competing in the competition.

6. Collusion

- 6.1 No competitor is permitted to collaborate with any other team in the rounds, irrespective of whether this is before or after the conclusion of the rounds.
- 6.2 Penalties for breach of this rule are at the discretion of the Moot Convenor and may include:
- 6.2.1 A warning.
 - 6.2.2 Penalties on moot performance.
 - 6.2.3 Disqualification.

7. Judging

- 7.1 Oral submissions will be judged in accordance with the score sheet, to be posted when the problem question is released. Marks for this component of the competition will be out of 100.
- 7.2 Judges are encouraged to give feedback to teams at the conclusion of each round.

However, a failure to give reasons will not constitute grounds for appeal.

- 7.3 In the preliminary rounds, judges are forbidden from revealing the winner of each round, or individual speaker scores.

8. Competition Format

- 8.1 There will be ‘preliminary rounds’ held at the Queensland University of Technology (Gardens Point Campus) on the weekend of 3-4 August 2024.
- 8.2 Each team will moot the prosecution side once and the defendant side once in the preliminary rounds.
- 8.3 The draw of the preliminary rounds will be provided in advance of the competition.
- 8.4 Teams will progress to the final rounds based on a cumulative point score in their preliminary round moots.
- 8.5 The Moot Convenor has absolute discretion to determine whether the teams will break to a quarter-final, semi-final, or Grand Final.
- 8.6 Teams will be randomly allocated to represent either the prosecution or defendant in each moot after the preliminary rounds.
- 8.7 The Grand Final (and potentially the semi-finals) will be held on Sunday 11 August 2024 at the Queensland University of Technology (Gardens Point Campus).
- 8.8 The Grand Final will be decided by three judges, without reference to any previous round scores.

9. Best speaker prizes

- 9.1 The competition will award a *Best Speaker in the Grand Final*, chosen by the three judges based on mooter performance in the Grand Final. This prize cannot be shared.
- 9.2 The competition will award an *Overall Best Speaker*, based on the speaker scores during the preliminary rounds of the moot. This prize can be shared if the top speaker scores are tied.

10. Release of marks

- 10.1 No win / loss result or individual speaker scores will be released at the conclusion of each preliminary round.

11. Queries about the problem or the rules

- 11.1 If a competitor has a question about the problem or the rules, they should make it known to the Moot Convenor, preferably by email.
- 11.2 The Moot Convenor will then make a decision regarding the rules or the problem.

12. Disputes and Appeals

- 12.1 Any dispute in relation to a breach or alleged breach of these rules will be finally and conclusively resolved by the Moot Convenor.
- 12.2 There will be no appeals from the decisions of judges except in the case of an obvious typographical or transcription error in the score sheet. In particular, there will be no appeals on grounds of merit, unreasonable decisions, or lack of reasons given for decisions.