



**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND
LAW SOCIETY
CHAMPIONSHIP MOOT
TOURNAMENT RULES**

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1. COMPETITION NAME

1.1 This Competition will be officially known as the University of Southern Queensland Law Society (USQLS) Championship Moot Tournament ('the Tournament').

1.1.1 The Tournament Executive may publicize the Tournament under another appropriate title at their discretion.

2. COMPETITORS

2.1 By entering this Tournament, all competitors agree to be bound by the Tournament Rules outlined in this document and any relevant provisions of the USQLS Constitution.

2.2 Each competitor must be either a financial member of the USQLS, or enrolled in Moot Court Bench (LAW3466), or pay a specified fee (to be determined by the Tournament Executive) to be eligible to enter the Tournament.

2.3 Each competitor must be currently enrolled and studying at the University of Southern Queensland.

2.4 Each competitor will compete in a team of two (2). Teams will at least consist of a senior counsel and a junior counsel. The team may also have an instructing solicitor present who will not be able to make oral submissions.

2.5 Each competitor, competing as counsel, must have completed a minimum of four (4) LAW courses at University.

2.5.1 Rule 2.5 may be subject to change at the discretion of the Tournament Executive.

2.6 Competitors must not have graduated with a degree in law in any jurisdiction.

2.6.1 Competitors in their final semester of studies must have their final piece of assessment due after the commencement of the quarter finals of the Tournament.

2.7 Competitors must not have graduated with a degree in law in any jurisdiction.

2.7.1 Competitors in their final semester of studies must have their final piece of assessment due after the commencement of the quarter finals of the Tournament.

2.8 Competitors must register by the registration date as set by the Tournament Executive.

3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

3.1 The Tournament will be comprised of at least four (4) Rounds; a Preliminary round, a Quarter Final, a Semi-Final, and a Grand Final.

3.1.1 Each moot will consist of at least two (2) sides (e.g. one (1) Appellant and one (1) Respondent, or any such title as specified within the relevant question).

3.1.2 The Tournament Executive may determine that additional rounds will be held as required.

3.2 The number of Rounds comprising the Tournament will be determined at the discretion of the Tournament Executive. This decision is to be made having regard to:

- 3.2.1 The resources available to the Tournament Executive and the USQLS;
- 3.2.2 The number of competitors expected;
- 3.2.3 Relevant logistical challenges;
- 3.2.4 The general circumstances of the Tournament Executive and the USQLS.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1 The draw of teams (the Draw) will be conducted by the Tournament Executive following close of nominations.

4.1.1 The allocation of teams within the Draw will be made at random according to the requirements of each Tournament.

4.1.1.1 The Tournament Executive reserves the right to create a draw allowing Moot Court Bench students to compete against each other in the preliminary rounds.

4.1.2 The requirements of each Tournament will be determined by the USQLS in consultation with the Tournament Executive.

4.1.3 All teams will compete in the Preliminary round(s) of the Tournament.

4.1.4 Competitors may not observe proceedings of a round until they have finished competing in that round.

4.1.5 Teams will be randomly allocated to sides in each round.

4.2 Progression of teams to subsequent rounds

4.2.1 The winning team of each moot will be the team with the greater number of points.

4.2.2 The eight (8) teams with the highest cumulative points for the Preliminary round(s) will progress to the Quarter Final round.

4.2.3 Where a team chooses to withdraw after the Preliminary round(s), the team with the next highest points total will progress to the Quarter Final round.

4.2.4 The winning team of each moot, in the Quarter Final round will progress to the Semi-Final round.

4.2.5 The winning team of each moot, in the Semi-Final round will progress to the Grand Final.

4.3 In the case of an uneven number of teams, a three (3) way moot will be held in the Preliminary round(s).

4.3.1 Three (3) teams will be randomly allocated to moot one after the other.

4.3.2 There may be two (2) Appellants and one (1) Respondent, or two (2) Respondents and one (1) Appellant.

4.3.3 Where there are two teams representing the same side, neither team may give their oral presentation in front of the other team.

4.3.4 In a three (3) way moot, only one (1) team can be declared the winner, and this will be seen as winning against both other teams.

4.4 In the event that one (1) or more teams withdraw from the competition, resulting in an uneven number of teams, randomly allocated teams will be matched in a three (3) way moot as outlined in Rule 4.3

5. PROBLEM QUESTIONS

5.1 Release date of questions may be altered as deemed appropriate by the Tournament Executive.

5.2 The Tournament Executive has the discretion to use the same problem question for the entirety of the Tournament.

5.3 The Vice President Competitions reserves the right to alter the problem question after any round.

5.3.1 The alteration of the question must be approved by the Tournament Executive.

5.3.2 The Tournament Executive must release the altered question a minimum of seven (7) days prior to a moot.

5.4 The Question for the Preliminary round(s) will be released not less than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the first moots in the Preliminary round(s) being held.

5.5 The Question for the Quarter-Final round (if altered or different) will be released following the completion of the Preliminary round(s), but not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the first moots in the Quarter-Final round being held.

5.6 The Question for the Semi-Final round (if altered or different) will be released following the completion of the Quarter Final round, but not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the first moots in the Semi-Final round being held.

5.7 The Question for the Grand Final (if altered or different) will be released following the completion of the Semi-Final round.

5.8 Questions may only be on the following areas of law:

5.8.1 Contract Law

5.8.2 Tort Law

5.8.3 Criminal Law

5.8.4 Equity

5.8.5 Property/Land Law

5.8.6 Administrative Law

5.8.7 Commercial Law

5.8.8 Corporate Law

5.8.9 Competition and Consumer Law

5.8.10 Federal Constitutional Law

5.8.11 Evidence Law

5.9 Unless otherwise stated, all moots will be heard as if before the Supreme Court of Queensland (appeal jurisdiction). The jurisdiction to hear the case will be assumed.

5.10 Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that problems are constructed in a way that does not significantly disadvantage participants of any cohort.

5.10.1 All problems will be constructed with a competitive view in mind.

5.10.2 No right of appeal exists against the construction of any problem question within the tournament.

6. PREPARATION AND RESEARCH

6.1 All research and preparation for the moots must be conducted solely by team members.

6.1.1 Teams may receive assistance from an approved mooting coach at the discretion of the Tournament Executive.

6.1.2 All competitors are eligible to attend approved moot coaching sessions arranged for the Tournament.

6.1.3 All students enrolled in LAW3466 may receive assistance from the course lecturer.

6.1.4 All assistance must be limited to the following:

6.1.4.1 General instruction on the basic principles of relevant law;

6.1.4.2 General advice on research sources and methods;

6.1.4.3 General advice on memorandum writing techniques;

6.1.4.4 General advice on oral advocacy techniques;

6.1.4.5 General advice on the organization and structure of arguments in the team's written and oral pleadings;

6.1.4.6 general commentary on the quality of the team's legal and factual arguments.

6.2 Any contravention of rule 6.1 may result in disqualification or a deduction of points at the discretion of the Tournament Executive.

6.3 Procedural submissions must not be made during the moot.

6.3.1 Objections from the Bar table will not be accepted and may be penalised.

6.4 Research depth is the responsibility of each team – a material lists will not be distributed unless otherwise directed by the Tournament Executive.

7. WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

- 7.1** Teams will be required to submit an Outline of Argument for each round of the Tournament.
- 7.2** Outlines of Argument are to be drafted in accordance with Practice Direction Number 6 of 2004. The template in appendix one is to be followed. Each Outline of argument must include a team number, whether it is the respondent's or appellant's argument and must be signed at the bottom.
- 7.3** Competitors must send an electronic copy of their Outline of Argument to the Tournament Executive via email to comps.usqls@gmail.com **48 Hours** prior to the beginning of each round
- 7.4** Penalties may apply if Outlines of Argument are submitted late.
- 7.5** The Outline of Argument must not exceed four (4) pages.
- 7.6** Penalties may apply if the Outline of Argument exceeds four (4) pages.
- 7.7** Competitors must prepare a Bundle of Authorities as specified by the rules and the Tournament Executive.
- 7.7.1** The Bundle of Authorities is to be handed up to the judge at the beginning of senior counsels' submissions.
- 7.7.2** The Bundle of Authorities must contain a copy of the decision being appealed and the grounds of appeal; the teams Outline of Argument and copies of all cases relied upon and extracts of any statutes relied upon.
- 7.7.3** The Bundle of Authorities must be bound and include an index and all pages must be numbered.
- 7.7.4** For students appearing via Zoom, the Bundle of Authorities must be emailed with their Outline of Arguments in accordance with rule 7.3.
- 7.7.5** Rule 7.7.2 is subject to change at the discretion of the Tournament Executive.
- 7.8** Penalties may apply if Bundles of Authority are not submitted in accordance with the rules.
- 7.9.** The requirements of written submissions and materials to be relied upon may be altered at the discretion of the Tournament Executive

8. ORAL ARGUMENT

- 8.1** Each team will have twenty (20) minutes to present their case (excluding time taken to give appearances).
- 8.1.1** Each speaker will be allocated approximately ten (10) minutes to present their oral arguments.
- 8.1.2** The time allocated to each speaker excludes time taken to give appearances however is inclusive of time taken to respond to questions from the Bench.

8.1.3 Oral Arguments will be extended to minutes (15) for each speaker during the Semi Final and Grand Final (excluding time taken to give appearances).

8.1.4 In the Quarterfinals, Semi Finals and Grand Finals, the appellant team also has an additional 2 minutes in which rebuttal can be offered and the respondent team has an additional 1 minute in which surrebuttal can be offered.

8.1.4.1 Surrebuttal can only be given if rebuttal is given.

8.2 Judges may grant an extension of time of up to five (5) minutes per competitor.

8.2.1 There will be no right of reply and penalties may apply if a competitor exceeds their allocated or extended time.

8.2.2 A competitor must stop speaking when asked to do so by the Bench.

8.3 Teams may appear and present their Oral Arguments via the video application Zoom.

8.3.1 The onus of connection will be on the competitor 'Zooming' in.

8.3.2 Use of Zoom must be approved for each competitor by the Vice President
Competitions no less than 3 days from the date of the competitor's allocated moot.

8.3.3 In extraordinary circumstances the Vice-President Competitions may allow Zoom with less than the required notice.

8.3.4 In extraordinary circumstances Zoom can be requested to be used for the Tournament Grand Final. The use of Zoom in the Grand Final is discouraged and will be at the discretion of the tournament executive and subject to the availability of the required technology

8.3.5 Teams must request to Zoom via comps.usqls@gmail.com.

8.4 While observation of the Tournament is encouraged, the potential for disruption must be minimized. Therefore, observers should not enter or leave the room whilst a competitor is speaking.

8.5 Responsibility for timekeeping and adherence to allocated time periods and breaks rests with the judges.

8.6 If resources and volunteers are available, Bailiffs and timekeeping devices may be provided and, in such cases, will be solely responsible for all timekeeping.

8.7 Decisions by judges as to elapsed times are final and non-reviewable.

8.8 While observation of the Tournament is encouraged, the potential for disruption must be minimized. Therefore, observers should not enter or leave the room whilst a competitor is speaking.

9. JUDGING

9.1 Judges will be Judges, magistrates, legal practitioners, legal academics, current law students with extensive mooted experiences or others with demonstrated experience in judging mooted competitions.

9.2 Judges will be provided with:

9.2.1 The question for that round;

9.2.2 The score sheet (see Appendix 2);

9.2.3 The Outlines of Argument submitted by all teams;

9.2.4 A copy of the Tournament Rules.

9.2.5 A Marking guide

9.3 Judges will award each individual a mark out of one hundred (100). These marks will be allocated as follows:

Organisation of presentation	10 Marks
Development of argument	25 Marks
Questions from the Bench	20 Marks
Manner and expression	30 Marks
Written submissions	15 Marks
TOTAL	100 Marks

9.4 Using the score sheet for each individual will result in each team receiving a mark out of two hundred (200).

9.5 In the event of teams being awarded the same score, judges are to award the round to the team with the best speaker; no draws are possible.

9.6 Where there is more than one judge, judges will be asked to produce one (1) score sheet between them.

9.7 Completed score sheets will be emailed to competitors at the conclusion of each round by the Vice President Competitions.

10. TOURNAMENT EXECUTIVE

10.1 This section establishes the Tournament Executive as the body responsible for the administration of the Tournament and interpretation of the Tournament Rules.

10.2 The Tournament Executive shall not be affiliated with nor assist any team registered to take part in the Tournament.

10.3 The Tournament Executive shall consist of three (3) members, who are to work in cooperation.

10.3.1 The composition of the Tournament Executive shall be as follows:

10.3.1.1 The USQLS Vice-President Competitions;

10.3.1.2 The marking lecturer of Moot Court Bench (LAW3466); and

10.3.1.3 The Competitions Convener for the Championship Moot

10.4 The Competition Convener for the Championship will be the USQLS Championship Moot Officer. If the officer position is vacant then the Competitions Convener for a competition will be a financial member of the USQLS chosen at the discretion of the Vice President Competitions.

10.5 The Tournament Executive will make decisions in accordance with its responsibilities and powers as outlined in the Rules.

10.6 The decisions of the Tournament Executive regarding the interpretation of the Rules will be final.

11. FORFEITURE

11.1 Any team that forfeits will be deemed to have lost that moot. Counsel for the forfeiting team will be deemed to have a mark of zero for that round.

11.2 Any team whose opponent forfeits a round will be deemed to have won that moot. The team's margin will be the average of their margins from other rounds.

11.3 Any team which forfeits will be excluded from progressing.

11.4 A forfeit will be considered to have occurred where a team withdraws after the deadline for written submissions in Rule 7.3 has passed. Any withdrawal before that time will trigger a three (3) way moot in accordance with Rule 4.3.

12. PRIZES

12.1 There will be three (3) prizes awarded in the Grand Final of the Tournament.

12.2 The Tournament Champion Prize will be awarded to the winning team in the Grand Final (being the team awarded the most points according to the score sheet in Appendix 2).

12.2.1 The Tournament Champion Prize will be the sum of \$1,000.00.

12.3 The Tournament Runner-up Prize will be awarded to the losing team in the Grand Final (being the team awarded the least points according to the score sheet in Appendix 2).

12.3.1 The Tournament Runner-up Prize will be the sum of \$500.00

12.4 The Best Advocate Award will be awarded to the individual competitor in the Grand Final with the highest cumulative score for all rounds of the competition under the following headings from the score sheet in Appendix 2: Development of Argument; Questions from the Bench; and Manner and Expression.

12.4.1 The Best Advocate Award will be the sum of \$500.00.

12.4.2 In the event of a tied score between competitors the competitors will share the prize equally.

13. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Outline of Argument Guide

PRACTICE DIRECTION NUMBER 6 OF 2004 SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND

Outline of Argument

1. Practitioners are to provide written outlines of argument in all contested and ex parte hearings before a Judge or Registrar (including, where practicable, bail applications) in the applications jurisdiction.
2. An outline should:
 - (a) provide a concise summary of the argument, in point form;
 - (b) identify relevant authorities and legislative provisions;
 - (c) usually not exceed four pages; and
 - (d) attach a chronology where appropriate.
3. For the purposes of this competition the outline must:
 - (a) contain the team number;
 - (b) state whether it is the appellant or respondent's argument;
 - (c) Be signed by both team members – electronic signature is acceptable.
 - (d) Be sent as a pdf file named like this: **Team 1 Respondent Submission.pdf**

- 1.6 The Respondent submits that the distinction between the original proceeding and the amended pleadings, as stated in *Hartnett v Hynes* [2009] QSC 225 at paragraph [24] (citing McMurdo J in *Borsato v Campbell* [2006] QSC 191 at paragraph [8]), should be applied in this instance.
- 1.7 The Respondent acknowledges the decision in *Hartnett v Hynes* [2010] QCA 65 but submits that a distinction should be drawn on its determination of the proceedings below in *Hartnett v Hynes* [2009] QSC 225.
- 1.8 The Respondent submits that leave to amend should not be granted to allow arguable issues to be tried when granting leave would force vacation of the trial date: *Sagacious Legal Pty Ltd v Wesfarmers General Insurance Ltd (No 2)* [2010] FCA 275. Leave to amend should not be granted to allow arguable issues where amendment would substantially increase the length, cost and complexity of proceedings, especially due to the late introduction of substantial new issues: *Pacific Exchange Corporation Pty Ltd v Federal Commissioner for Taxation* (2009) 180 FCR 300.
- 1.9 The Respondent submits that cases where leave has been granted further illustrate that the Courts have not been inclined to allow significant additions, but merely corrections and clarifications: *Gerard Cassegrain & Co Pty Ltd v Cassegrain* [2010] NSWSC 91; *Scantech Ltd v Asbury* [2009] FCA 1480.

2. Insufficient explanation for delay in amending pleadings (# Speaker)

- 2.1 A sufficient explanation must be given where a party has had sufficient opportunity to plead their case and a late amendment of the case has been made, as stated by the joint judgment of the High Court in *Aon v ANU* at paragraphs [101] – [106].
- 2.2 The Respondent submits that the Applicant has failed to provide a sufficient explanation of their delay of some months between discovering the breach of contract alleged and the making the relevant amendment of pleadings.
- 2.3 Unexplained delay at this late stage may amount to a breach of the implied undertaking in Rule 5(3) of the UCPR, as stated by Applegarth J in *Hartnett v Hynes* [2009] QSC 225.

3. Prejudice that granting leave to amend would cause the Respondent (# Speaker)

- 3.1 The Respondent submits that granting leave to amend the pleadings would be prejudicial to the Respondent as the amendments are so substantial that they would require the Respondent to defend again, in effect, as stated by the High Court in *Aon v ANU* at paragraph [104].

- 3.2 The Respondent submits that in circumstances apposite to those in the present matter allowing the late introduction of substantial new issues would tend to prejudice the Respondent, as stated in *Ginger Roger Pty Ltd v Parrella Enterprises Pty Ltd (No 2)* [2010] FCA 128.
- 3.3 As a personal litigant, the Respondent would be more significantly impacted by the prejudice of the delay to his claim as stated in *Aon v ANU* at paragraph [101] (citing *Ketteman v Hansel Properties Ltd* [1987] AC 189).
4. The application for leave to amend the Notice of Intention to Defend and Defence should be refused.

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Counsel for the Respondent

Counsel for the Respondent

Appendix 2: Score Sheet



USQ Law Society Championship Moot Tournament

Team Score Sheet

Judge		
Case	<i>R</i> <i>V</i> <i>Randall</i>	
Date		
location		
Team number		
Counsel for the Appellant/Respondent (Circle One)	First Counsel (Name)	Second Counsel (Name)
Organisation of Presentation	/ 10	/ 10
Development of Argument	/ 25	/ 25
Questions from the Bench	/ 20	/ 20
Manner and Expression	/ 30	/ 30
Written Submissions	/ 15	/ 15
Speaker Total	/ 100	/ 100
Team Total	/ 200	

Organisation of Presentation			
Factors: logical organisation and structure; concise overview of submissions and conclusion; appropriate attention and weight given to some arguments over others; flexibility despite being taken off-topic		/ 20	
First Counsel	/ 10	Second Counsel	/ 10

Development of Argument			
Factors: Understanding of the law and issues; logical; persuasive, arguments; pinpoint citation of authorities; appropriate use of policy arguments		/ 50	
First Counsel	/ 25	Second Counsel	/ 25

Questions from the Bench			
Factors: Prepared for questions that can be anticipated; clear, concise and direct responses; engagement with the court's views; composure and courtesy despite challenges to arguments; effective integration of responses with arguments; adept treatment of irrelevant questions; ability to deal with difficult and obscure questions.		/ 40	
First Counsel	/ 20	Second Counsel	/ 20

Manner and Expression			
Factors: Engages with the court; projects voice; articulates submissions with eloquence; use of clear and simple language; displays confidence without arrogance; eye-contact with members of the bench; courteous and formal; correct citation of cases; appropriate use of courtroom formalities; consistent style and manner.		/ 60	
First Counsel	/ 30	Second Counsel	/ 30

Written Submissions			
Factors: Coverage of all issues raised in the case; well-structured; clear, concise and reasoned expression; supported by authorities with pinpoint citations; free from grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors; consistent with oral submissions		/ 30	
First Counsel	/ 15	Second Counsel	/ 15

