

## **The Times 2TG Moot Rules**

### **Definitions**

1. In these Rules the following words and expressions shall have the following meanings:

2TG	2 Temple Gardens, Barristers Chambers
Authority	A judicially decided case at any level and in any jurisdiction or a citation from a text book or an article or a UK statute or other source
Closing Date	31 <sup>st</sup> May in the Competition Year
Competition	The Times 2TG Moot, being the national student mooting competition established by these Rules and announced in The Times newspaper in the early part of each year and concluding with a Grand Final in the January of the following year
Competition Year	The period from the announcement of the Competition to the conclusion of the Competition
The Coordinator	The member of 2TG appointed by the Organisers for the Competition Year
Moot	A written and/or oral argument presented to a Moot Judge by Teams in the course of a Round in accordance with these Rules. Each Moot will be argued on the basis of English law as it stands at the date of the Moot
Moot Judge	A person appointed by the Organisers to judge a moot whether alone or with other Moot Judges. Where there is more than one Moot Judge, references to Moot Judge in these Rules is to be taken as a reference to all or any one of them.
Mooter	A Participant who makes oral or written submissions in the course of a Moot
The Organisers	2 Temple Gardens, Barristers Chambers

Participants	Students who complete a registration form and submit a skeleton argument in the prescribed form in accordance with these Rules
PDF Format	A computer file in Adobe Acrobat (“pdf” suffix) format
The Rules	This document
Submission	An entry in the Competition by a Team consisting of a skeleton argument in accordance with these Rules whether accompanied or not by a video
Team	Two Participants who have entered the competition as a pair
Word Format	A computer file in Microsoft Word format

### **The Competition**

2. The Competition shall be known as the “The Times 2TG Moot”. The Competition shall be organised by 2 Temple Gardens, Barristers Chambers. These Rules may be amended from time to time. It is the responsibility of Participants regularly to check the Rules for amendments.
3. The Competition shall consist of four rounds, as further outlined in these Rules.
4. Overall responsibility for the running of the Competition and the interpretation of these Rules rests with the Organisers and the Coordinator.
5. The Organisers shall not be responsible for the Participants’ costs and expenses.
6. In the absolute discretion of the Organisers and the Coordinator an *ex gratia* payment may be made to Participants in the Final round as a contribution to travel and/or accommodation costs (for example in cases of real hardship).

## **The Teams**

7. Participants must be in teams of two individuals. All Participants must, at the time of registration for the Competition, be a full-time or part-time student at a higher or further educational establishment in the United Kingdom.
8. Team members may not be substituted in any circumstances. If a single team member is not available on the date of a Moot due to sickness or other exceptional circumstances the Coordinator may, in their absolute discretion, allow the remaining Team member to conduct the Moot on behalf of both Participants in the Team. Such discretion will only normally be exercised if the circumstances preventing the absent Team member's attendance were (i) outside of his/her control and (ii) unforeseeable. It is not anticipated that it would ever be appropriate to exercise this discretion twice for the same team in a single Competition.
9. An individual who has won the Moot or participated in the Grand Final in any previous Competition Year is ineligible to be a Participant in any subsequent Competition Year.

## **Registration**

10. The Teams must register, by midnight on the Closing Date, their interest in the Competition at [www.2tg.co.uk/timesmoot](http://www.2tg.co.uk/timesmoot) by completing in full the electronic registration form.
11. Each Participant must provide at least one email address and one mobile telephone number per Participant by which the Organisers can contact the Team. Changes in email address or telephone number must be notified by the Participant to the following email address: [timesmoot@2tg.co.uk](mailto:timesmoot@2tg.co.uk).
12. Contact by the Organisers with one Team member shall be deemed to be contact with both Team members.

## **Competition Format and Timetable**

13. The Competition will consist of four rounds as follows:

### ***Round 1***

14. The Moot Problem for Round 1 will be made available on the Competition Website [www.2tg.co.uk/timesmoot](http://www.2tg.co.uk/timesmoot) on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March in the Competition Year.

15. The Organisers will not as a general rule give further clarification or answer requests for further information in relation to the facts stated in the moot problem.

16. The Teams must submit, by email to [timesmoot@2tg.co.uk](mailto:timesmoot@2tg.co.uk), a single skeleton argument on behalf of the appellant in response to the Round 1 Moot Problem by midnight on the Closing Date. Entries sent after this date will be disregarded and senders of such skeleton arguments shall not be Participants in the Competition.

17. The skeleton argument must be:

- a. In Word Format and as an attachment to the email;
- b. No longer than 2 A4 pages in length (including the heading);
- c. Written in Times New Roman font, 12 point, 1.5 line spacing, without any footnotes; and
- d. Contain within the body of the skeleton argument the names of the Team members.

18. The Round 1 Moot Problem will include, as citations at the bottom of the Moot Problem, the Authorities upon which the Teams are permitted to rely. No other Authorities may be relied upon in the skeleton arguments submitted in response to the Round 1 Moot Problem.

19. Each team may rely on a maximum of 5 authorities in total in their skeleton argument submitted in response to the Round 1 Moot Problem i.e. if 3 authorities are relied on in support of ground 1, only 2 authorities may be relied on in support of ground 2.
20. The Teams may also supplement their skeleton arguments with a video of either one or both of the Team Members making oral submissions in response to the Moot problem. The video must be no longer than 90 seconds in length and uploaded onto the You Tube website ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)). In the event that such a video is submitted the video must be submitted by a URL link in the body of the email to the video concerned on the You Tube website and not as an attachment to the email.
21. The submission of a supplementary video is not compulsory. In the usual case videos will only be referred to where two or more Teams have submitted skeleton arguments of equal merit. The video in such circumstances may strengthen or weaken the Team's Submission.
22. Following a review of the Round 1 Submissions the Organisers will select the Teams to progress to Round 2. Successful Teams will be notified by email.

### ***Round 2***

23. Round 2 will take place at three regional centres before 31<sup>st</sup> October in the Competition Year. Round 2 will consist of two stages which will take place on the same day. Each stage will consist of a separate Moot considering the same Moot Problem. Teams that have won the Moot at the First Stage will progress to the Second Stage. Teams that win the Second Stage will progress to the next Round.

24. Teams will be notified in advance via their nominated email address which regional centre they are to attend at, and the date upon which they are to attend.
25. Teams must respond to this email promptly, and in any event within the time period stipulated by the Organisers, to confirm their attendance at Round 2.
26. Round 2 will involve consideration of a Moot problem which will be emailed to Teams, at their nominated email addresses, no later than 2 weeks prior to the date of the Moot.
27. The Organisers will not as a general rule give further clarification or answer requests for further information in relation to the facts stated in the moot problem.
28. The Moot problem will include, as electronic attachments, the Authorities upon which the Teams are permitted to rely (in PDF Format). No other Authorities may be relied upon in the Moot. Written skeleton arguments may not be submitted in Round 2.
29. The Teams are to bring to the Moot at least one printed copy of the Moot problem and Authorities for each Team member. Hard copies of the Moot problem and Authorities will not be provided by the Organisers.
30. Teams must prepare argument on behalf of both the “appellant” and the “respondent”. Whether the Team is to argue on behalf of the appellant or the respondent will be decided by the drawing of lots no later than 30 minutes prior to the team beginning oral submissions.
31. Submissions in Round 2 will take the following format:
  - a. Each Team member will be permitted to make oral submissions for 7 minutes;

- b. The clock will not be stopped for judicial interventions;
  - c. At 7 minutes, the mooter will be required to cease making submissions;
  - d. The Moot Judge may allow additional time in his/her absolute discretion;
  - e. The speaking order will be:
    - i. Lead Appellant;
    - ii. Lead Respondent;
    - iii. Junior Appellant;
    - iv. Junior Respondent.
32. Each stage of the Moot in Round 2 will be decided by a Moot Judge.
33. The judge may, in their discretion, give judgment on the legal problem which has been argued and may also, at their discretion, provide some comment on the advocacy style of the mooters.
34. At the end of Round 2 the number of teams in the competition will have reduced to eight Teams.

***Round 3: The Semi-Finals***

35. The Semi-Finals will take place no later than 30<sup>th</sup> November in the Competition Year. The eight participating Teams will be notified, via their nominated email addresses, of the dates of the Semi-Finals and the Moot problem will be sent to the Teams, also via their nominated email addresses, no later than 3 weeks prior to the date of the Moot.
36. Teams must respond to this email promptly, and in any event within the time period stipulated by the Organisers, to confirm their attendance at the Semi Finals.

37. Round 3 will consist of two stages which will take place on the same day. Each stage will consist of a separate Moot considering the same Moot Problem. Teams that have won the Moot at the First Stage will progress to the Second Stage. Teams that win the Second Stage will progress to the next Round.
38. The Organisers will not as a general rule give further clarification or answer requests for further information in relation to the facts stated in the moot problem.
39. The Moot problem will include, as electronic attachments, the Authorities upon which the Teams are permitted to rely (in PDF Format). No other Authorities may be relied upon in the Moot. Written skeleton arguments may not be submitted in Round 3.
40. The Teams are to bring to the Moot at least one printed copy of the Moot problem and Authorities for each Team member. Hard copies of the Moot problem and Authorities will not be provided by the Organisers.
41. Teams must prepare argument on behalf of both the “appellant” and the “respondent”. Whether the Team is to argue on behalf of the appellant or the respondent will be decided by the drawing of lots no later than 30 minutes prior to the team beginning oral submissions.
42. Submissions in the Semi-Finals will take the following format:
  - a. Each Team member will be permitted to make oral submissions for 10 minutes;
  - b. The clock will not be stopped for judicial interventions;
  - c. At 10 minutes, the mooter will be required to cease making submissions;

- d. The Moot Judge may allow additional time in his/her absolute discretion;
  - e. The speaking order will be:
    - i. Lead Appellant;
    - ii. Lead Respondent;
    - iii. Junior Appellant;
    - iv. Junior Respondent.
43. The judge may, in their discretion, give judgment on the legal problem which has been argued and may also, at their discretion, provide some comment on the advocacy style of the mooters.
44. Two Teams will progress to the Grand Final.

***Round 4: The Grand Final***

45. The Grand Final will take place in January at the conclusion of the Competition Year.
46. The Moot problem will be sent to the Teams, via their nominated email addresses, no later than 3 weeks prior to the date of the Moot. Whether Teams are to argue for the Appellant or Respondent will be determined randomly by the Organisers.
47. The Teams must submit, by email to [timesmoot@2tg.co.uk](mailto:timesmoot@2tg.co.uk), a skeleton argument in response to the Moot Problem together with copies of any authorities relied upon within the time period stipulated by the Organisers.
48. The skeleton argument must be:
- a. In Word Format and as an attachment to the email;
  - b. No longer than 2 A4 pages in length (including the heading);

- c. Written in Times New Roman font, 12 point, 1.5 line spacing, without any footnotes; and
  - d. Contain within the body of the skeleton argument the names of the Team members.
49. The Grand Final Moot Problem will include, as electronic attachments, the Authorities upon which the Teams are permitted to rely (in PDF Format). No other Authorities may be relied upon in the skeleton arguments submitted in response to the Grand Final Moot Problem.
50. Each team may rely on a maximum of 5 authorities in total in their skeleton argument submitted in response to the Grand Final Moot Problem i.e. if 3 authorities are relied on in support of ground 1, only 2 authorities may be relied on in support of ground 2.
51. The Organisers will effect simultaneous exchange of skeleton arguments and Authorities by way of email between the Teams, not later than 10 days prior to the Moot.
52. The Organisers will make available one bundle of authorities for each Team member for the Grand Final. A copy of these bundles will be available to collect from 2TG not less than 3 days before the Grand Final.
53. The relevant calendar dates and times for submission of skeleton arguments, Authorities and exchange will be confirmed by the Organisers at the time of delivery of the Moot Problem.
54. Submissions in the Grand Final will take the following format:
- a. Each Team member will be permitted to make oral submissions for 10 minutes;

- b. The clock will not be stopped for judicial interventions;
  - c. At 10 minutes, the mooter will be required to cease making submissions.
  - d. The Moot Judge may allow additional time in his/her absolute discretion;
  - e. The speaking order will be:
    - i. Lead Appellant;
    - ii. Lead Respondent;
    - iii. Junior Appellant;
    - iv. Junior Respondent.
55. The judge may, in their discretion, give judgment on the legal problem which has been argued and may also, at their discretion, provide some comment on the advocacy style of the mooters.

### ***The Prizes***

56. The winning Team of the Competition will receive tbc, and the opportunity for each Team member to undertake a mini-pupillage at 2 Temple Gardens.
57. The runner-up Team will receive tbc and the opportunity for each Team member to undertake a mini-pupillage at 2 Temple Gardens.

### **General**

58. These Rules are subject to English law and jurisdiction.
59. Participants understand and agree that neither Times Newspapers Limited nor any company associated with it is a party to these Rules or will be liable thereunder.

60. The Coordinator and Organisers may in their absolute discretion waive any requirement under these Rules provided that in their opinion such a waiver does not unfairly prejudice another team or teams which remain in the competition to a material extent.
61. Any claim or complaint for breach of these Rules must be communicated in writing to the Organisers within 3 months of the breach or it is irrevocably waived.
62. Mooters are allowed to receive support from third parties (for example a teacher or lecturer) provided that the content of their submissions (oral and written) remains their own original work.