

## 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	15 <sup>th</sup> July 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
Round	Consideration of the initial skeleton arguments from the Participants from which Teams shall proceed to the Second Round, Third Round and a series of Moots or a Moot at the conclusion of which half or fewer of the Teams participating shall be winners and half or more shall not progress further in the Competition.
The Rules	This document
Submission	An entry in the Competition by a Team consisting of a skeleton argument in accordance with these Rules
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 7 (seven) 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 or returning a completed version of the electronic registration form to the following email address: timesmoot@2tg.co.uk.

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 7 (seven) rounds as follows:

#### ***Rounds 1 and 2***

14. The Moot Problem for Rounds 1 and 2 will be made available on the Competition Website [www.2tg.co.uk/timesmoot](http://www.2tg.co.uk/timesmoot) on or before 15th May 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 and 2 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 and 2 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 Round 1 and 2 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 and 2 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. Following a review of the Round 1 Submissions the Organisers will select the Teams to progress to Round 2. The Organisers will review the Submissions of all teams who have progressed into Round 2, and select those that are to advance to Round 3. Teams will be notified by email as to whether they have progressed beyond Round 2.

### ***Round 3***

21. Round 3 will take place remotely, by video or telephone link. Round 3 will consist of a single Moot.
22. Teams will be notified in advance via their nominated email address of the arrangements for the Round 3 Moot and must respond to this email promptly, and in any event within the time period stipulated by the Organisers, to confirm their attendance (remotely) at Round 3.
23. Round 3 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. The Organisers will draw, at random,

the individual Moots and will allocate the role of Appellants or Respondents to the Teams at the same time as the Moot problem is emailed.

24. 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.
25. 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 Round 3 Moot. Written skeleton arguments may not be submitted in Round 3.
26. It is the responsibility of the Teams to have available to them printed or electronic copies of the Moot Problem and Authorities..
27. Submissions in Round 3 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.

28. The Round 3 Moot will be decided by a Moot Judge. 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.
29. At the end of Round 3 the number of teams in the competition will have reduced to 16 Teams.

#### ***Round 4***

30. Round 4 will take place remotely, by video or telephone link. Round 4 will consist of a single Moot, and will involve consideration of the Round 3 Moot problem.
31. Teams will be notified in advance via their nominated email address of the arrangements for the Round 4 Moot and must respond to this email promptly, and in any event within the time period stipulated by the Organisers, to confirm their attendance (remotely) at Round 4.
32. The Organisers will draw, at random, the individual Moots and will allocate the role of Appellants or Respondents to the Teams at the same time as teams are notified of the arrangements for Round 4.
33. The Round 3 Moot problem will have included, 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 Round 4 Moot. Written skeleton arguments may not be submitted in Round 4.
34. It is the responsibility of the Teams to have available to them printed or electronic copies of the Moot Problem and Authorities..
35. Submissions in Round 4 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.
36. The Round 4 Moot will be decided by a Moot Judge. 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.
37. At the end of Round 4 the number of teams in the competition will have reduced to 8 Teams who will progress to the Quarter Finals.

***Round 5: The Quarter-Finals***

38. The Quarter Finals will take place by no later than [TBC] in the Competition Year. The eight participating Teams will be notified, via their nominated email addresses, of the dates of the Quarter 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 together with details of the Moot.



39. 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 Quarter Finals.
40. 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.
41. The Moot problem for the Quarter Finals 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 Quarter Finals. Written skeleton arguments may not be submitted in the Quarter Finals.
42. 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.
43. 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.
44. Submissions in the Quarter 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.
45. 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.
46. Four Teams will progress to the Semi Finals.

***Round 6: The Semi-Finals***

47. The Semi Finals will take place by no later than [TBC] in the Competition Year. The four participating Teams will be notified, via their nominated email addresses, of the dates of the Quarter 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 together with details of the Moot.
48. 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.
49. 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.
50. The Moot problem for the Semi Finals 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 Semi

Finals. Written skeleton arguments may not be submitted in the Semi Finals.

51. 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.
52. 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.
53. 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.
54. 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.

55. Two Teams will progress to the Grand Final.

***Round 7: The Grand Final***

56. The Grand Final will take place in [TBC] at the conclusion of the Competition Year.

57. 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.

58. 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 by the date specified by the organisers when the Moot problem is sent out.

59. 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.

60. 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 or in oral argument during the Grand Final.

61. The Organisers will make available an electronic copy of the Grand Final Moot Bundle to the Teams prior to the deadline for submitting skeleton arguments. Hard copies of these bundles will be available to collect from 2TG not less than 3 days before the Grand Final.
  
62. 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 (although Mooters must be prepared to speak in any order):
    - i. Lead Appellant;
    - ii. Lead Respondent;
    - iii. Junior Appellant;
    - iv. Junior Respondent.
  
63. 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***

64. The winning Team of the Competition will receive £1,500 i.e. £750 for each mooter, and the opportunity for each Team member to undertake a mini-pupillage at 2 Temple Gardens.

65. The runner-up Team will receive £1,000 i.e. £500 for each mooter and the opportunity for each Team member to undertake a mini-pupillage at 2 Temple Gardens.

### **General**

66. These Rules are subject to English law and jurisdiction.
67. 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.
68. 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.
69. 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.
70. 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.