

The Times 2TG Moot **Frequently Asked Questions**

Registration and Entry

Question: Can you help me find a mooting partner?

Answer: We cannot provide this service. You might try using social media or Mootis, the social network specifically for those interested in law.

Question: I am due to commence the BPTC in September having graduated a couple of years ago and sought advocacy experience since then. Am I eligible to enter the moot, given that I am not 'at the time of entering' in higher or further education, but will be from September?

Answer: No. You must be registered as a student (full or part time) at the time of registration. The closing date for registration is set out in section 1 of the current version of the moot rules.

Question: I am on a gap year and completed my GDL last academic year and will begin the BPTC at BPP in London in September. I have already accepted my place there and begun the process of registering. Am I eligible?

Answer: Unless you are actually registered with the educational establishment in question at the time of registration for the Moot, you are not eligible.

Question: I am currently a BPTC student but will complete the BPTC in June. I understand that the rules state that the entrants must be students at the time of registration, however, I will complete the BPTC in June. Am I eligible?

Answer: You are eligible provided you are a registered student at the time of registration for the competition. So yes, you are eligible to enter.

Requests for Clarification

Question: Can I ask for clarification with regard to a moot problem?

Answer: It is not generally possible to give further guidance to one moot team in answer to such requests, because this might give rise to an unfair advantage. However if a genuine ambiguity has arisen, the Moot Judges will take this into account in judging the outcome of that particular round.

Rounds 1 and 2: Authorities

Question: In Rounds 1 and 2: are we only allowed to use the authorities you have provided or may they use additional ones if they think they need to?

Answer: You may not use any additional authorities. You may only refer to the authorities we have provided (Rule 18).

Question: I have submitted our skeleton argument for Round 1 and have registered for the competition. Do I need to submit a further skeleton argument for Round 2?

Answer: No. You are required to submit only a single skeleton argument in response to the Round 1 and 2 Moot Problem, which will be your only skeleton argument for these Rounds (Rule 16). The Organisers will allocate judges to determine which teams progress from Round 1 to Round 2 and will then a different set of judges will be allocated to determine which teams progress from Round 2 to Round 3.

Rounds 3 and 4: Appellant or Respondent

Question: In Rounds 3 and 4 will mooters have to be prepared to represent either party, or will we be assigned a role prior to the start of the round?

Answer: No. You will be allocated either Appellant or Respondent when the Round 3 Moot problem is sent out. If your progress to Round 4, you will be allocated either Appellant or Respondent in good time prior to the moot (when the details of the moot are sent out to you). In each case, whether you are Appellant or Respondent will be allocated at random.

Rounds 3 and 4: Authorities

Question: In Rounds 3 and 4: are we only allowed to use the authorities you have provided or may they use additional ones if they think they need to?

Answer: No, you may only refer to the authorities we have provided (Rules 25 and 33).

Question: Can we include non-legal authority or materials or are we supposed to strictly stick to the cases provided? The problem involves reference to some terms and conditions and we want to show the Judge some real life terms and conditions from this industry for comparison purposes.

Answer: No. You may only rely on the authorities provided and no other material may be deployed, whether legal or non-legal.

Question: In Round 3: In one of the cases you have provided the Judge makes reference to another case. Are we able to quote the Judge quoting other cases?

Answer: You may refer to any part of the authorities you have been provided with, this includes any part of the judgment which refers to another case, even though that case has not been provided.

Rounds 3 and 4: Bundles

Question: For Rounds 3 and 4, will we need to create a bundle for our opposing team and the judge?

Answer: No. Rounds 3 and 4 will take place remotely. You must make sure that you have available to you during the moot copies of the moot problem and full copies of the authorities (and not just the passages of the authorities that you wish to rely on).

Rounds 3 and 4: Skeleton Arguments

Question: With reference to rule 25, 'Written skeleton arguments may not be submitted in Round 3.' Does this mean simply that there will be no skeleton swap in advance or does it mean no skeleton arguments will need to be produced whatsoever?

Answer: You may not rely on a skeleton argument at all.

Question: When you say that you may not rely on a skeleton argument, I have actually prepared one to have with me when I make my submissions. I know that I cannot hand it in, but can I read from it for my oral submissions?

Answer: "Rely" in this sense means with regard to the Judge. Provided you do expressly refer the document to the Judge there is no bar to you using it as your notes for your oral submissions. However, our experience is that over reliance on notes can hinder rather than help submissions.

Question: I know a skeleton isn't necessary but I was just wondering whether we are required / whether it is advisable to prepare one for the judge(s).

Answer: You do not need to prepare anything for the Judges. We will provide them with copies of the authorities and the moot problem.

Rounds 4 and 5: Quarter Finals and Semi Finals

Question: Will I be told whether I am for the Appellant or the Respondent in advance of the day of the Moot?

Answer: No. You are required to prepare to argue for both the Appellant and the Respondent. A draw will take place on the day of the quarter finals and a further draw on the day of the semi finals when you attend in chambers at which you will be told whether you are acting for the Appellant or the Respondent, no later than 30 minutes prior to beginning oral submissions (Rule 43 and Rule 52).

Question: Do I need to prepare or submit a skeleton argument for Round 4: Quarter Finals?

Answer: No. You do not need to prepare and may not rely on a skeleton argument for Round 4: Quarter Finals.

Question: Do I need to prepare a bundle for the quarter finals or semi finals.

Answer: No. However, you must ensure that you bring to the Moots at least one printed copy of the Moot Problem and complete copies of the Authorities for each team member (Rule 42 and Rule 51).

Dress Code

Question: What is the Dress Code?

Answer: For all Rounds where you are either (a) attending in person; or (b) attending via video link the dress code is: Business Attire.

Substituting a Team Member

Question: Due to unforeseen circumstances I will not be able to partake in The Times 2TG Moot round on the date allocated, however my partner, is still able to participate on this date. Would we be permitted to use a stand-in competitor?

Answer: 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 (Rule 8).

Coaching and Mentoring

Question: May we engage the help of a teacher or college lecturer to mentor and coach us?

Answer: Mooters may receive a measure of coaching/mentoring. However the content of the students' submissions (both oral and written) must be their own original work. We would investigate a situation where a number of teams from the same educational establishment appeared to have striking similarities in what they were saying

Question: Are we allowed to organise practice moots around the Moot Problem?

Answer: It is not a breach of the Rules for Mooters to rehearse their submissions with each other or with third parties. However the content of the students' submissions (both oral and written) must be their own original work.

Question: My College tutor has some brilliant ideas for this moot problem, can I use them?

Answer: A coach/mentor can give Participants general pointers as to the areas of law that they should look at or research further but not to suggest specific cases or lines of argument.

Question: My college have organised a practice moot around your problem. At the end the Judge will give us feedback included suggestions as to the way in which we should have answered questions. Is this allowed?

Answer: Guidance may be given as to mooting style and such general pointers as the order in which arguments might be deployed – but not to the extent that the coach/mentor was suggesting ideas or new arguments that the student had not thought of and not answers to any questions that might have come up.

Question: What practical ways may we make sure that we don't breach the spirit of the rules in engaging in a rehearsal for the moot?

Answer: It might be wise to ensure that as many students as possible are present (so as to avoid the temptation of making the guidance too specific). Where feedback is given, every effort should be made to ensure that it is student-led, and that the input of any teacher / qualified professional is limited as set out above. The touchstone is fairness and we are keen that mooters are on as equal a footing as possible.