
VIII GD GOENKA-CIARB (INDIA) INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION MOOT COMPETITION

RULES & REGULATIONS

Theme: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

25th - 27th September 2026

GD Goenka University Campus, Sohna-Gurugram, Haryana, India

Supported by

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) - India

Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF)

International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) - Singapore

**Moot Court Society
School of Law
GD Goenka University**

***VIII GD Goenka – CIArb (India) International Commercial Arbitration Moot
Competition – September 2026***

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CHAPTER I

1. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT: These rules may be called “GD Goenka- CIArb (India) International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition, 2026 Rules” or “VIII CIArb Rules.”

1.1. They shall come into force from the date of publication, on the official website of School of Law, GD Goenka University, Gurugram <https://www.gdgoenkauniversity.com/school/school-of-law/ciarb>

1.2. The rules are reviewed annually and are subject to change. Reliance should be placed only on “VIII CIArb Rules” and not on any previously applicable rules.

2. DEFINITIONS: In these rules, unless otherwise stated, a reference to a rule is a reference to that rule in “VIII CIArb Rules” and a reference to a form is a reference to that form attached in the “VIII CIArb Rules” as the case may be. In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

2.1. “*Bench*” refers to the members duly invited by the institute to adjudge any of the rounds;

2.2. “*Clarifications*” means explanation published by the institute on the moot problem, at any point of time of the competition or a query posed by any competing team within the given deadline;

2.3. “*Competition*” means the GD Goenka- CIArb (India) International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition, 2026;

2.4. “*Organising Committee*” means the student-faculty-staff body appointed for the administration and conduct of the competition, including all other members conferred with powers on ad-hoc basis by the “*Ex-officio Chairperson*’ or *Faculty In – charge*” of the Moot Court Society of School of Law, GD Goenka University;

2.5. “*Institution*” means and includes “School of Law, GD Goenka University, Gurugram”;

2.6. “*Memorial Round*” refers to the assessment of memorials, submitted by teams, on the predefined criterion, hereinafter mentioned in these rules;

2.7. “*Moot Problem*” means a hypothetical problem inclusive of facts, issues and structure published by the institution for competition;

2.8. “*Oral Round*” refers to the oral pleadings made by the teams before the bench as per the requirements of the rounds for assessment, including time given for rebuttal;

2.9. “*Team Code*” means a unique code assigned by the institution to the applied and registered team;

2.10. “*Team*” means and includes only bona fide representatives of any University/Law School/College, may that be state, central or international or any other department recognized/authorized to impart law degrees, and who have applied and registered for the competition by complying with the procedure prescribed in these present rules;

3. INTERPRETATION: The Organising Committee reserves the right to interpret the rules as it deems fit in order to ensure fairness and equality in the competition. Any such interpretation shall be conclusive and the decision of the Organising Committee for the application of the rules shall be final and binding.

3.1 The Organising Committee reserves the right to amend, modify, change or repeal any rule of this competition, the same shall be communicated to the teams in due time. In case of any conflict, the decision of the Governing Council shall be final and binding.

CHAPTER II

4. ELIGIBILITY:

4.1. Students duly enrolled and pursuing full time 5 years or 3 years undergraduate or post graduate course of law from India or from a foreign university with law as major may apply to participate in the VIII GD Goenka- CIArb (India) International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition, 2026.

4.2. Students enrolled and pursuing short-term certificate courses in law are not eligible to apply.

4.3. Only one team is eligible to participate from one recognized law school under the above-mentioned criteria.

5. TEAM COMPOSITION:

5.1. A team shall consist of a maximum three members that must include two Speakers and one Researcher.

5.2. Any team, intending to change the team composition of the team shall intimate the Organising Committee by sending an e-mail at arbitrationmoot@gdgoenka.ac.in. The change shall be allowed subject to the discretionary powers of the Organising Committee.

5.3. The Researcher may be permitted to argue as Speaker in case of any unforeseen event, subject to the discretionary powers of the Organising Committee.

5.4. Prior permission of the Organising Committee shall be mandatory in aforesaid cases.

6. REGISTRATION

6.1. General

6.1.1. Each team shall register to GD Goenka- CIArb (India) International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition, 2026 by filing the registration form, in the prescribed manner by **10 August 2026**. The Registration form link: <https://forms.gle/bGVpSrgcs53Kjomq5>. The deadline may be extended at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

6.1.2. Registration form:

6.1.3. On receipt of the duly filled registration form the Organising Committee shall respond to the participating team, acknowledging the receipt.

6.1.4. After the deadline for the registration expires, the Organising Committee shall respond to each registered team, with a unique team code, which shall be used to identify the teams during the competition.

6.2. Registration Fee:

6.2.1. The registration fee for the competition for National Teams and International Teams is provided below. Registration Fees in any case is non-refundable.

National Team	International Team
INR 12,000	USD 125
Inclusive of accomodation and meal costs of all 3 days of the competition.	

6.2.2. The registration fee for the Competition is to be paid through the payment method provided. No other payment method shall be accepted.

6.2.3. Any additional charges incurred by the team while making the wire transfer shall be borne by the team.

6.3. Completion of Registration Process:

6.3.1. All teams must upload a scanned copy of the receipt generated on completion of the payment on the Registration Form. The receipt must contain the reference number after the completion of the wire transfer of the registration fees.

6.3.2. Registration to the Competition shall be deemed to be confirmed only on completion of all the formalities as specified under this clause. In case of any default, may be treated as withdrawal from the competition and no claim of whatsoever nature shall be entertained thereafter.

7. CLARIFICATIONS:

7.1. Clarifications can be sought on any part of the moot proposition. The Organising Committee has prepared a Clarifications Form. All clarifications shall be sought via the Clarification Form via this link: <https://forms.gle/wwSp4xKhjDbGS6zD9>. Clarifications can also be sought via sending an email to arbitrationmoot@gdgoenka.ac.in. The deadline for seeking clarifications is **30 July 2026**.

7.2. It is at the discretion of the Organising Committee to decide whether a clarification sought is valid and to be clarified.

8. ANONYMITY OF TEAMS:

8.1. Teams shall not reveal their identity in any form during the Competition, except by the means of their Team Code allotted by the Organising Committee.

8.2. Teams must not reveal the name of their institution or names of the participants, anywhere in the memorials or in the course of the oral argument rounds, by any visual or audio means. Teams must also not make use of or display in any manner whatsoever any logo, pins, badges etc. that indicates the university represented by them.

8.3. Any material presented to the Panel, including but not limited to compendium, should be devoid of any identification mark(s)/seal(s) of the Team. If any such mark(s)/seal(s) exist, it must be rendered unrecognizable before being presented to the judges.

8.4. Any violation of the aforesaid rules shall attract severe penalty or disqualification as determined by the Organising Committee. The decision of the Organising Committee in this regard shall be final and binding.

CHAPTER III

9. MEMORIALS:

9.1. General:

9.1.1. Each team shall research into the domain of the moot problem, subject to the Rules prescribed in Chapter III, and prepare a memorial from both sides, namely Applicant/Claimant and Respondent as the case may be.

9.2. Format of Memorial:

9.2.1. The memorials are to be submitted in the format prescribed under **Rules 9.2.2 - 9.2.4.**, Chapter III. If a team fails to comply with the given format, it may be penalized in the form of deductions from the memorial marks.

9.2.2. The memorials shall contain all of, and only, the following heads, namely -

9.2.2.1. Cover Page (It shall include the team code of the team on upper right-hand corner, name of the case, parties on behalf of whom written submissions are made, name of the forum approached for dispute resolution and year. The Cover page of the memorial on behalf of the Claimant shall be in BLUE, and Respondent shall be in RED)

9.2.2.2. Table of Contents

9.2.2.3. List of Abbreviations

9.2.2.4. Index of Authorities

9.2.2.5. Statement of Jurisdiction

9.2.2.6. Statement of Facts

9.2.2.7. Issues Raised

9.2.2.8. Summary of Arguments

9.2.2.9. Arguments Advanced

9.2.2.10. Prayer

9.2.2.11. Annexures

9.2.3. Font and Spacing

9.2.3.1. All written submissions shall be typed on A4 size paper in the following format:

- a. Font type: Times New Roman
- b. Font Size: 12
- c. Line Spacing: 1.5
- d. Alignment: Justified Margin: 1 inch (each side)

9.2.3.2. For Footnotes follow:

- a. Font Size: 10
- b. Line Spacing: 1
- c. Alignment: Justified

9.2.4. Citations: All teams shall give footnotes by adhering to The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (21st ed. 2020).

9.2.5. Plagiarism and AI: The Organising Committee reserves the right to disqualify a team, at any stage of the competition, if the memorial or any other part thereof, is found to be plagiarized or AI-generated.

10. SUBMISSION OF MEMORIALS:

10.1. Each registered team shall submit a soft copy in PDF format (.pdf) of the memorials from both sides, via submitting it on this link: <https://forms.gle/6NhBQScURkPLaFo6> on or before **31 August 2026** (11:59 PM IST). The deadline may be extended subject to the discretion of the Organising Committee.

10.2. Soft copies of the Memorials **shall be submitted only via the provided link** and not through e-mail.

10.2.1. The name of the file containing the memorial from the Claimant's side should be ICA_XX_C. The name of the file containing the Respondent's side should be ICA_XX_R.

10.3. Each registered team shall submit **6 hard copies** of the memorial from both sides in duly spiraled manner at the registration desk on **25 September 2026** before the commencement of the Inaugural Session.

10.4. Submissions made after the specified deadline shall lead to penalties in the form of deductions from the memorial marks. Every **twenty-four (24)** hours delay would attract a penalty of **ten (10)** marks.

10.5. Submissions made after the specified deadline will not be considered for the Best Memorial.

11. ASSESSMENT OF MEMORIALS:

11.1 Each side of the memorials shall be assessed out of 100 marks, by a team of experts on the predetermined criterion, as specified hereunder:

- a. Identification of issues and the nature of relief sought (10 marks)
- b. Knowledge of fact and law (20 marks)
- c. Use of authorities/precedents (20 marks)
- d. Argumentation and clarity of thoughts (20 marks)
- e. Proper citation and correct format (10 marks)
- f. Grammar and style of presentation (10 marks)
- g. Originality/novelty (10 marks)

12. RIGHTS OVER MEMORIALS

12.1 The administering authority of the competition reserves the rights to disseminate and produce the memorials as and when deemed necessary for the purpose of the competition. Submission of the memorials will constitute the team's consent to do the same. The Governing Council will not take any responsibility for the mistakes found in the final submission of the memorials.

13. COMPENDIUMS

13.1. The teams can at their own discretion send the soft copies of the compendium, along with their memorials on or before **31 August 2026 (11:59 PM IST)**. The hardcopies of the same shall be submitted along with the hardcopies of the memorials.

13.2 If the teams are referring to any books, then the material of the book shall be quoted in the citation format provided in **Rule 9.2.4**. If the teams are referring to any case law, then it shall be quoted in compendium and not otherwise.

13.3. The compendium will be shared to the judges only via the Organising Committee

CHAPTER IV

14. DRESS CODE:

14.1 The participants shall adhere to the following dress code while in the courtrooms:

- a.** Ladies: White shirt and black trousers or skirt along with a black blazer.
- b.** Gentlemen: White shirt, black trousers, a black tie, a black blazer and black shoes

15. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION:

15.1 GENERAL:

15.1.1 The formal commencement of the competition shall be on **25 September 2026**.

15.1.2 The rounds will be conducted in Offline Mode in the premises of School of Law, GD Goenka University, Gurugram, India.

15.1.3 The competition shall have two Preliminary Rounds, followed by Quarter-Finals, Semi Finals and the Final Round.

15.2. RESEARCHER'S TEST

15.2.1 General Instructions

- a)** The test is of **1 hour** duration and consists of **50 marks**.
- b)** The test is divided into three sections:
 - i.** Section I: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), **15 Questions of 2 marks each - 30 marks**
 - ii.** Section II: Short Answer Questions, **2 Questions of 5 marks each - 10 marks**
 - iii.** Section III: Long Answer Question, **1 Question of 10 marks - 10 Marks**
- c)** Participants must ensure they write their team code on the answer sheet before submitting the test.
- d)** Electronic devices such as mobile phones, laptops, tabs and smartwatches are strictly prohibited during the test.

15.2.2 Section-Wise Guidelines

a) Section I: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) – 30 Marks

- (i) This section consists of 15 questions.
- (ii) Each correct answer is awarded 2 marks.
- (iii) Each wrong answer will result in a deduction of 1 mark.
- (iv) No marks will be deducted if a question is left blank.
- (v) Participants must select only one option per question. Multiple responses will be treated as incorrect.

b) Section II: Short Answer Question – 10 Marks

- (i) This Section consists of 2 questions of 5 marks each.
- (ii) The answer should be limited to 250 words.
- (iii) The response must be structured, concise, and supported by relevant legal principles or case law.

c) Section III: Long Answer Question – 10 Marks

- (i) Participants must attempt the sole question provided in this section.
- (ii) The answer should be limited to 500 words.
- (iii) The response should be well-reasoned, structured, and demonstrate critical analysis.

15.3. ORAL ROUNDS:

15.3.1. PRELIMINARY ROUNDS-

- a) Each team has to argue from the side allotted in the draw of lots i.e., Claimant or Respondent.
- b) Each side will be allotted 15 Minutes to present their arguments. 3 Minutes will be given extra for each team to present their rebuttals/sur-rebuttals.

c) The division of time between the speakers is the discretion of the team members, subject to a maximum of 10 minutes for one speaker.

d) At the end of the preliminary rounds, the top 8 teams will qualify for the QuarterFinals. The top 8 teams will be selected on the basis of maximum wins secured in the preliminary rounds.

e) In the case of a tie or more than one team securing the equal number of wins, the total marks of memorial and the researcher test will be considered. In that case the team with the higher score will advance to the Quarter Finals.

f) Kindly refer to Chapter V for more related rules.

15.3.2. QUARTER FINALS:

a) The Quarter Finals will be a knockout-round. The teams securing the highest score in each round (winning team) shall advance to the semi-finals.

b) The side to be represented by a team shall be determined by way of draw of lots with the teams picking the lots after the completion of the preliminary rounds.

c) Each team shall get a total time of 20 minutes to present their case. Any extension of time beyond the specified period shall be subject to the discretion of the judges. The maximum time for rebuttals for each side shall be 3 minutes.

d) The division of time between the speakers is the discretion of the team members, subject to a maximum of 15 minutes for one speaker.

e) Before the commencement of the round, each team shall indicate to the 'Court Master' as to how they wish to allocate their time.

f) Kindly refer to Chapter V for more related rules.

15.3.3. SEMI-FINALS:

a) The Semi-Finals will be a knock-out round. The teams securing the highest score in each round (winning team) shall advance to the finals.

b) The side to be represented by a team shall be determined by way of draw of lots with the teams picking the lots after the completion of the preliminary rounds.

c) Each team shall get a total time of 20 minutes to present their case. Any extension of time beyond the specified period shall be subject to the discretion of the judges. The maximum time for rebuttals for each side shall be 3 minutes.

d) Before the commencement of the round, each team shall indicate to the 'Court Master' as to how they wish to allocate their time.

e) Kindly refer to Chapter V for more related rules.

15.3.4. FINALS:

a) The Final round will be held just after the Semi-Finals. The Winners will be decided on the basis of the highest score attained.

b) Each team shall get a total time of 30 minutes to present their case. Any extension of time beyond the specified period shall be subject to the discretion of the judges. The maximum time for rebuttals for each side shall be 5 minutes.

c) The division of time between the speakers is the discretion of the team members, subject to a maximum of 20 minutes for one speaker.

d) Before the commencement of the round, each team shall indicate to the 'Court Master' as to how they wish to allocate their time.

e) Kindly refer to Chapter V for more related rules.

16. ASSESSMENT CRITERION FOR ORAL PLEADINGS:

Team performance of the Speakers shall be judged in all rounds out of 50 Marks on the basis of following criterion:

a) Knowledge of the fact and law. (15 marks)

b) Application of relevant law to the factual scenario and interpretation. (10 marks)

c) Argumentative skills and response to questions. (10 marks)

d) Clarity of thoughts and expression. (10 marks)

e) Skills of advocacy and court-room etiquette. (5 marks)

17. PENALTIES:

17.1. Non – Disclosure of Identity:

Teams shall not disclose their identity, i.e. the name of their institution, city, etc. or any other information which has the effect of disclosing their identity and affiliation with a particular university or institution. Such disclosure shall result in disqualification subject to the discretion of the Organising Committee.

17.2. Copyright:

The copyright with regard to the memorials submitted for the participation in the Competition is assigned by participants and shall also vest completely and fully with the Organising Committee. The participants shall certify the originality of the memorials and the materials used and shall be responsible for any claim or dispute arising out of further use and exhibition of these materials. The Organising Committee shall have the right to publicly display, distribute either electronically or otherwise and they shall not be responsible for any liability to any person for any loss caused by errors or omissions in this collection of information, or for accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the information contained in these materials.

The copyright with regard to the audio-visual files, conferencing, submitted for the participation in the Competition is assigned by participants and shall also vest completely and fully with the Organising Committee, which will be further posted on the social media platforms for clarity and purposes.

18. CERTIFICATION, PRIZES AND AWARDS:

18.1. Prizes and Rewards

CATEGORY	PRIZES
WINNER	INR 1,20,000 CASH PRIZE/ TROPHY/ CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
RUNNER-UP	INR 90,000 CASH PRIZE/ TROPHY/ CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
BEST ORALIST	INR 30,000 (CASH PRIZE/ TROPHY/ CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
BEST RESEARCHER	INR 30,000 (CASH PRIZE/ TROPHY/ CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
BEST MEMORIAL	INR 30,000 (CASH PRIZE/ TROPHY/ CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

18.2. The prize pool also includes Scholarships and Training Courses worth Rs. 3,00,000 /-.

18.3. Hard copy of Certificates for participation will be given to all the participants during the valedictory ceremony.

18.4. Certificates for Semi-Finalists, Runners-up, Winners, Best Speaker, Best Researcher and Best Memorial will also be provided during the valedictory ceremony.

18.5 Cash awards will be sent after getting details of winners such as Institution ID card, Pan Card & Bank Account details for which they will be contacted via email by the Moot Court Committee.

18.6. It is the responsibility of teams to distribute cash prizes among themselves.

CHAPTER V

19. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS:

19.1. No team shall indulge in any act of misconduct during the rounds, undermining the credibility of judges or that of the competition. Any act to the contrary may lead to immediate disqualification from the competition without scope of appeal.

19.2. All the teams shall be bound to follow the code of conduct and the rules laid down by the School of Law, GD Goenka University.

19.3. Any behavior of indiscipline with the Organising Committee or any other staff member or student volunteer shall be dealt with strictly and may lead to immediate disqualification from the competition without scope of appeal.

19.4. No team shall ask for feedback immediately on completion of any round. However, at the end of all the rounds the participants may talk to the judges, with minimum inconvenience caused to them.

19.5. Any attempt to approach the framer of the moot problem or the panel of judges of the competition, prior to the competition shall be dealt with strictly and may lead to immediate disqualification from the competition without scope of appeal.

19.6. The organising committee reserves the right to amend, modify or repeal any of the rules if so required and as they deem appropriate. Participating teams shall receive adequate notice of any/all such amendments or modifications to the rules.

19.7. If anything, not specifically covered by rules, the decision of the organising committee shall be binding.

19.8. No team is allowed to use mobile phones during any of the oral rounds, for the purposes of research, phone call, texting, or any other purposes.

19.9. No use of mobile phones/tablets will be allowed in the courtroom.

19.10. If any member of a team is notified or informed of any detail or information concerning the Competition, it shall be deemed as if the said team as a whole has been duly notified or informed, however the communication will be made to all but to the possible extent. Also, the individual is responsible to communicate the information with the team.

19.11. Conversion charges for converting other currency into Indian Rupees (INR) has to be incurred by the International Teams.

FOR FURTHER QUERIES CONTACT US

Regarding the rules of the competition or any other queries. The Organising Committee has prepared a Clarifications Form. All clarifications shall be sought via the Clarification Form. The link for the same: <https://forms.gle/wwSp4xKhjDbGS6zD9>. Clarifications can also be sought via sending an email to arbitrationmoot@gdgoenka.ac.in. The deadline of sending clarifications is **30 July 2026**.

CONTACT DETAILS		
NAME	DESIGNATION	PHONE NUMBER
Phenil Banerjee	MCS CONVENOR	+91 9953991783
Yashi Bhardwaj	MCS CONVENOR	+91 7982134740
Maitri Chaturvedi	MCS CO-CONVENOR	+91 7042945935
Satyam Jain	MCS CO-CONVENOR	+91 9800549800
Shreya Dhillon	MCS SECRETARY	+91 9811126006

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS	HYPERLINKS
LINKEDIN	https://www.linkedin.com/company/school-of-law-gd-goenka-university/
FACEBOOK	https://www.facebook.com/GDGULS/
INSTAGRAM	https://www.instagram.com/schooloflawgdgu/
X	https://twitter.com/gdguschooloflaw
EMAIL ID	arbitrationmoot@gdgoenka.ac.in