



THAKUR RAMNARAYAN COLLEGE OF LAW

(Approved by Bar Council of India & Affiliated to University of Mumbai)
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ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SOCIETY

Presents

PACTUM CONCORDE 2.0

INTER-COLLEGIATE MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2026

31st October & 1st November 2026



RULEBOOK



PACTUM CONCORDE 2.0: INTER-COLLEGIATE MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2026



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PREAMBLE:

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Society of Thakur Ramnarayan College of Law (TRCL), Mumbai, proudly presents the Pactum Concorde 2.0: 2nd Inter-Collegiate Mediation Competition, 2026. This competition is envisioned as a distinguished national platform for aspiring legal professionals to hone and showcase their skills in mediation, negotiation, and collaborative dispute resolution. This Rulebook serves as the supreme governing document of the Competition. By completing the registration process, all participants unconditionally agree to abide by the rules, procedures, and the spirit of this Competition.

ARTICLE 1 - TITLE AND DEFINITIONS:

The present rules shall be called the THAKUR RAMNARAYAN COLLEGE OF LAW (ADR Rules, Procedure and Penalties) 2026 or PACTUM CONCORDE 2.0: INTER-COLLEGIATE MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2026 (Hereinafter referred to as “Competition”) Rules and Procedures 2026 and shall come in force, on such date as notified by the ADR Committee (ADRS) to the student body.

Definitions:

- A. “Breakout Rooms” refers to the online sub-meeting rooms on the Zoom/WebEx Platform(s) [as decided by the Organizing Committee] to be used for the Main Round, and Caucus Breakout Sessions.
- B. “Assessment Criteria” means the scoring and evaluating criteria set out for the Assessors.
- C. “Assessor” or a “Judge” means a lawyer, academician or judge nominated and selected by the Organizing Committee who evaluates and scores the performance of the Participating Team during a Mediation Session in accordance with the Assessment Criteria. All assessors shall provide to the Organizing Committee a Statement of Trust declaring their neutrality, impartiality and independence to assess the teams of the competition; and disclosing any conflict of interests with the participants, or the university, if it may cause a hindrance to the assessment of the round.
- D. “Competition” shall mean the Inter-Collegiate Mediation Competition, 2026.
- E. “Competition Rules” means the rules and guidelines mentioned.
- F. “Caucus” refers to a private conference between co-mediators.
- G. “Confidential Information” means the factual background information of the problem for the exclusive use of the Negotiators and the Assessors, not the Mediators.
- H. “Feedback” refers to the critique provided by Expert Assessors to the Competition Session Participants, in relation to each of their performances in the Main Round.
- I. “General Information” refers to the set of background information provided by the Organizing Committee to the participants for the purpose of the Mediation Session.
- J. “General Lobby” refers to the Zoom room [as decided by the Organizing Committee] where all participants and assessors will gather before the Main Round begins and to which a Negotiating Team reports to during a Caucus. The Session Supervisors and all members providing technical assistance to participants and assessors will remain present in this General Lobby throughout.
- K. “Main Round” refers to the stage of Competition Session immediately following the Confidential Information Session, where the Teams are tasked to mediate on the Competition Problem.
- L. “Mediator” refers to the neutral party who will facilitate the negotiation.
- M. “Mediation Room” refers to the classrooms in the Thakur Ramnarayan College of Law Campus.
- N. “Negotiator” means the direct party to the dispute, or a representative of the party directly subjected to the mediation.
- O. “Negotiating Team” refers to a team composed of two participants - one Counsel and one Client - from the same institution.

- P. “Organizing Committee” means the Alternative Dispute Resolution Society of Thakur Ramnarayan College of Law.
- Q. “Penalty” refers to the subtraction in marks or disqualification of participants or any other disciplinary action taken by the Organizing Committee on account of any violation of these rules.
- R. “Participant” refers to any person participating in this Competition as a negotiator or mediator.
- S. “Registration Fee” refers to the fee to be paid by Selected Teams for participation in the competition.
- T. “Room Coordinator” refers to a member/s of the Host Institution designated as such, in charge of overseeing the smooth conduct of a particular Competition Room.
- U. “Rule” refers to a particular individual rule contained in this Rulebook, along with the sub-rules/ points thereunder. The Participants are deemed to know and accept these rules on the account of their registration in the Competition.
- V. “Session Supervisor” refers to the member/s of the Host Institution designated as such, in charge of overseeing the smooth conduct of every Competition Session.
- W. “Timekeeper” means a person appointed by the Organizing Committee to keep time during a Mediation Session.

ARTICLE 2 - LANGUAGE:

The official language of the Competition shall be English.

ARTICLE 3 - TEAM COMPOSITION:

Each participating team will consist of three eligible students from the same university, a Client, a Counsel and a Mediator. The overall composition of the team cannot be altered any time after registration. Neither the negotiating pair, nor the mediator, can change their roles. All participants will be assigned a code by the Organising Committee, which must be strictly adhered to.

ARTICLE 4 - ROUNDS:

- A. Each format of the competition will have four rounds, namely, the Preliminary Rounds, the Quarter-Final Round, the Semi-Final Round and the Final Round. The event will conclude with a virtual Valedictory Ceremony.
- B. Preliminary Round: This will be only one round. The duration of this round will be 40 minutes each, followed by a 10 minutes feedback session at the discretion of the judges and the Organising Committee.
- C. Quarter Final Round: The duration of this round will be 50 minutes each, followed by a 10 minutes feedback session at the discretion of the judges and the Organising Committee.
- D. Semi Final Round: The duration of this round will be 60 minutes each, followed by a 10 minutes feedback session at the discretion of the judges and the Organising Committee.
- E. Final Round: The duration of this round will be 90 minutes each, followed by a 10 minutes feedback session at the discretion of the judges and the Organising Committee.
- F. For the Preliminary Rounds, top 8 teams with the highest overall score in each segment, i.e. Negotiation and Mediation, will qualify for the subsequent rounds. From the subsequent rounds onwards, the competition will follow a knockout format, where only the highest scoring team in each Negotiation and Mediation room will qualify for the next round.

ARTICLE 5 - COMPETITION FORMAT:

- A. All the rounds of the competition will take place virtually.
- B. The rounds are scheduled on 31st October to 1st November, 2026.
- C. If any one or more team member/s back out or fail to attend any round, the entire team will be disqualified.

- D. The participants are not allowed to use their real names during the session/round and must ensure that they have a stable internet connection during online rounds. Participants are required to join the online round 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a penalty.
- E. The participants must remain seated according to the assigned code and their respective roles.
- F. The Mediation Session will consist of two pairs of Negotiators representing both sides of the Problem and two co-mediators engaging in the mediation process.
- G. Each round will have a set of Problem and Confidential Information for each side. The co-mediators in the are required to facilitate an agreement between the two negotiating sides.
- H. The Confidential Information will be sent prior to the start of the round, via the Registered E-Mail to the participants of their respective sides.
- I. The co-mediators, from two different teams, will act in coordination with each other and distribute roles equally, including their roles during the Caucus. They will always be in the Courtroom and work together as a team.
- J. Mediators may choose to start the session with a joint conference and engage in a caucus at a later stage, or they may choose to start with a caucus.
- K. A caucus may be called by either of the negotiating pair or the mediators. During the caucus, the opposite team will have to wait outside the Mediation Rooms and would rejoin after the conclusion of the caucus.
- L. It is not mandatory to call for a caucus. It is up to the discretion of the negotiating teams and mediators to call for a caucus. They will be assessed on the timing, reason, and productivity of the caucus, if called for.

ARTICLE 6 - REGISTRATION PROCESS:

- A. After final registration, the Organising Committee will notify slot confirmation via email along with the unique team code.
- B. Teams must pay a registration fee Early Bird Registration – Rs. 3000/- and Normal registration – Rs. 3300/- by 15th October and 25th October 2026 respectively.
- C. The following is the Payment Link for the said registration fee:
<upi://pay?mc=8398&pa=yespay.ypsm000006346@yesbankltd&pn=Thakur>

ARTICLE 7 - CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:

- A. Confidential Information will be given to negotiating teams before each round, after revealing the disputing party they represent.
- B. Clarifications can be emailed to adrs@trcl.org.in by 26th October, 2026.
- C. Assessors and negotiators should refrain from disclosing confidential information, particularly to mediators, prior to the commencement of negotiations.
- D. Confidential information may be shared during sessions by negotiators.
- E. Violation of these rules can result in immediate disqualification. The final decision rests with the Organizing Committee.

ARTICLE 8 - INTERPRETATION OF THE PROBLEM:

- A. Participants must make sure not to invent new facts.
- B. Participants should draw reasonable inferences from the facts provided.

ARTICLE 9 - EXHIBITS AND PROPS:

- A. In a Competition Session, teams are permitted only the use of personal notes and stationery items.
- B. During each Competition Session, the participating Negotiating Teams and the Mediators shall use an Electronic Gadget [either a Laptop or a Desktop Computer] for the purpose of participating in a Competition Session via video-conference.

- C. Apart from the devices used for the purpose of participation in the Competition Session, participants are prohibited from using any other Electronic Gadget that allows for any form of communication other than the use of the chatbox and zoom features, including, but not limited to: laptops, tablets, mobile phones, smart bands, smartwatches, etc.

ARTICLE 10 - ASSESSORS:

- A. Each session will have one or more experienced professionals as Assessors.
- B. Assessors will score participants based on the assessment criteria provided within Annexure I and Annexure II.

ARTICLE 11 - TIME LIMIT:

- A. Preliminary Rounds: 40 minutes plus 10 minutes feedback at the discretion of the Judges and Organizing Committee.
- B. Quarter-Finals: 50 minutes plus 10 minutes feedback at the discretion of the Judges and Organizing Committee.
- C. Semi-Finals: 60 minutes plus 10 minutes feedback at the discretion of the Judges and Organizing Committee.
- D. Finals: 90 minutes plus 10 minutes feedback at the discretion of the Judges and Organizing Committee.
- E. Mediation caucus sessions: maximum 5 minutes. (Can be called by either mediators or negotiators).
- F. Feedback Session: 10 minutes total (5 minutes per team), by Judges based on their discretion.
- G. Assessors may penalize participants for exceeding time limits but can allow extra time at their discretion. If the extended time allows an opportunity for a team to gather more information than other teams, such circumstances should be taken into consideration by the assessors in making their final decision.

ARTICLE 12 - ASSESSMENT:

- A. Expert Assessors will be selected and assigned by the Organizing Committee to score the performance and provide feedback to the Participants to help them move through the Competition rounds and improve their mediation skills.
- B. Following the end of the Mediation Session, the participants shall leave the Mediation Rooms, and the assessors will evaluate the performance of each competing team in accordance with the instructions set out.

ARTICLE 13 - RULE REGARDING TIE-BREAKER:

- A. In case of a tie between the scores of mediators, preference shall be given to the mediator who has received more marks in the "Effective Mediation Strategy" portion of the score sheet.
- B. In case of a tie between the scores of Negotiating Pairs, preference shall be given to the Negotiating Pairs, who has received more marks in the "Overall Strategy" for the Mediation Segment (Client/Counsel) of the score sheet.

ARTICLE 14 - WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS:

There shall be no written submission for any session.

ARTICLE 15 - ANONYMITY:

- A. After the registration of the teams, receiving the receipt of acknowledgement, teams shall receive a unique Team Code, which shall be used to identify the teams during the course of the Competition.
- B. No participating Team shall reveal their identity or college/ university/ institution in any form during the Competition, except by the means of the Team Code allotted to them.

- C. Any violation of the provisions of this rule shall attract severe penalty or disqualification as determined by the Organizing Committee. The decision of the Organizing Committee in this regard shall be final and binding without any scope of appeal.

ARTICLE 16 - SCOUTING:

- A. No member of any Team will be permitted to witness the proceedings in any Conference Room in which that Team is not one of the participating Teams whilst that Team is a part of the Competition. In case of any violation of the rule, the Organizing Committee shall take strict actions, which may include but not limited to, the expulsion of the said Team from the Competition.
- B. The mediators cannot discuss strategy with other mediators prior to the round. The Mediators should join the meeting room 20 minutes before the session starts.

ARTICLE 17 - VIOLATION OF THE RULES:

- A. Any violation of the rules will be penalized by the Organizing Committee, either by way of deduction of points or by disqualifying the whole Team from the Competition.
- B. Non-compliance with the instructions of the Organizing Committee by the member/s of any Selected Team shall result in a penalty, which will be decided by the Expert Assessors assessing the respective Main Round.
- C. A Penalty for any violation of the rules may be imposed on Teams by the Organizing Committee. The concerned Team will be given a fair chance to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it. The decision of the Organizing Committee shall be final.

ARTICLE 18 - POWER TO MAKE AMENDMENTS, MODIFICATIONS OR REVOCATIONS:

- A. The Organizing Committee shall have power to amend, modify or revoke the provisions of these rules, either in part or in whole, subject to the feasibility, transparency and smooth functioning of the Competition.
- B. Any such amendment or modification shall come into force upon the notification of such amendment or modification as the case may be.
- C. Any such amendment or modification shall be deemed to be part of these rules.

ARTICLE 19 - ETHICS CODE:

The Organizing Committee has the right to expect a minimum standard of acceptable conduct by participants, including:

- A. The aim of each participant in the session should be to try and reach an amicable solution.
- B. The negotiating team is expected to cooperate with the mediator during the session.
- C. The participants shall treat other members in the session with dignity and respect. (Verbal abuse, threats, acts of intimidation, violence etc. will not be tolerated.)
- D. Any kind of abusive language is strictly prohibited.
- E. Making derogatory remarks about any participant during the session is prohibited
- F. Any participant in the session, who is subjected to unacceptable behaviour, should politely and immediately communicate to the person that they are not comfortable with the discussion, and ask him/her/them to withdraw from the situation.
- G. Acts that endanger the health and safety of any participant or which substantially interfere with the orderly operation of the session will not be tolerated.
- H. Participants must wear formal attire at all times. The traditional black and white colour scheme is not mandatory; however, attire must reflect the Event's professionalism. Any form of casual or informal clothing

whatsoever is prohibited. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to disqualify or penalize participants for inappropriate attire.

ARTICLE 20 - CLARIFICATIONS

- A. Clarifications are only to be requested for ambiguity or possible errors, and not for further information as each Problem is self-contained.
- B. The Clarifications will be released by the Organizing Committee via email to all the participants
- C. Requests for clarification can only be made through email to adrs@trcl.org.in.

ANNEXURE - I: SCORESHEET FOR MEDIATOR

Team Code:

Room No.:

Name of Judge:

No.	Judging Criteria	Marks
1.	Opening Statement - has the Mediator managed to: A. Explain the mediation process and its advantages? B. Explain the importance and meaning of neutrality, impartiality and confidentiality? C. Provide a structure for the session? D. Describe the extent and limitations of their role? E. Explain the purpose of and scope of caucuses	Out of 10
2.	Establishing a Cordial Environment – has the Mediator: A. Established or assisted in establishment of ground rules? B. Made the parties comfortable with them, the setting and each other? C. Established an appropriate tone/theme for the session (formal/informal), and maintained or altered it as necessary throughout the session?	Out of 10
3.	Information Gathering – has the Mediator: A. Have the questions been framed in a manner to receive the maximum relevant information? B. Been able to gain the trust of the parties to get the confidential information? C. Been able to maintain neutrality and remain unbiased while asking questions? D. Assisted the parties involved to assess and identify their own interests? E. Managed time efficiently?	Out of 10
4.	Use of Caucuses – has the Mediator: A. If calling a caucus, called it at a necessary time, when required B. Been successful in making the parties understand the confidentiality of a Caucus? C. Called the Caucus for an appropriate purpose? D. Been able to obtain the necessary information or complete the desired task within the specified time frame? E. Used the Caucus in a balanced manner, considering the time constraint and opportunities provided to both parties? Note: It is not mandatory to call for a caucus. It is up to the discretion of the negotiating teams and mediators to call for the same. They will be assessed on the timing, reason, and productivity of the caucus, if called for.	Out of 10

No.	Judging Criteria	Marks
5.	Profiling Parties' Interests – has the Mediator: A. Been able to identify the crucial interests and needs of the parties involved? B. Been able to identify the common and conflicting interests between the parties? C. Helped the parties in identifying the zones of possible agreements to bring the parties closer to a settlement? D. Helped the parties identify their own interests and separate the same from their positions.	Out of 10
6.	Facilitating Option Generation – has the Mediator: A. Encouraged the parties to approach the settlement in Realistic and Ethical Manner? B. Ensured that all the necessary aspects of the problem were addressed in the option generated? C. Encouraged the parties to see the session as a positive-sum game, where win-win options are available?	Out of 15
7.	Cooperation between Mediators – have the Mediators: A. Shown Effective Collaboration in their opening statement? B. Worked with each other during the information gathering and option generation phases? C. Been Consistent/Similar in the approach during the session? D. Supported each other throughout the process and worked together as a team?	Out of 10
8.	Effective Mediation Strategy – has the Mediator: A. Maintained impartiality, neutrality and confidentiality throughout the session? B. Been able to use common and conflicting interests effectively? C. Facilitated an open discussion and intervened at the right time? D. Provide a summary and rephrased statements whenever required? E. Been able to manage time in an efficient manner? F. Dealt with emotions in a manner that is conducive to a peaceful and successful session?	Out of 20
	TOTAL	100

ANNEXURE – II: SCORESHEET FOR NEGOTIATING PAIR
(Client/Counsel)

Team Code:

Room No:

Name of the Judge:

No.	Judging Criteria	Marks
1.	Introduction- A. Is the Client/Counsel in “Character”? B. Has the Client/Counsel been able to appropriately summarize the factual matrix so far? C. Has the Client/Counsel been able to establish a cordial tone for the session? D. Has the Client/Counsel been able to convey their interests succinctly? E. Has the Client/Counsel shown willingness to collaborate?	Out of 10
2.	Teamwork and Relationship Building- A. How effectively were the roles divided between the client-counsel pair? Did the division of roles align with their chosen strategy? B. Did the client-counsel pair divide the subject matter in a fair and role-appropriate manner? C. Have the members communicated effectively with each other? D. Does the conduct of both team members indicate that they are comfortable working together and/or trust each other?	Out of 10
3.	Use of Caucus- A. Was the caucus called at an appropriate time, when required B. Was the Caucus called for an appropriate reason? C. Was the time managed efficiently during the caucus? D. Were the underlying interests and issues identified and used in the E. party’s advantage during the caucus? Note: It is not mandatory to call for a caucus. It is up to the discretion of the negotiating teams and mediators to call for the same. They will be assessed on the timing, reason, and productivity of the caucus, if called for.	Out of 10
4.	Information Gathering- A. Did the Client/Counsel display active listening skills during the session? B. How broadly has the Client/Counsel defined the idea of relevant information? C. Were the Client/Counsel able to gather all the information he/she may have required to distinguish between positions, needs and interests of the other party?	Out of 10

5.	Collaboration with the other party and Creative Option Generation- A. Did the client/counsel show flexibility and actively collaborate with the other party? B. Did the client/counsel attempt to build trust and a mutual relationship? C. Did the Client/Counsel participate in a brainstorming process and come up with creative solutions? D. Did the client/counsel come up with solutions that have a legitimate basis and are feasible in the long run? E. Was the Client/Counsel open minded about the ideas of the other party? F. Did the client/counsel discuss settlement terms in sufficient detail? G. How well did the client/counsel's options advance their own interests?	Out of 10
6.	Use of Mediator- A. Did the Client/Counsel use the Mediator's help at the right time and in a suitable manner? B. Did the Client/Counsel react constructively to the Mediator's intervention?	Out of 15
7.	Identifying and Advancing Party's Interests- A. Were the Client/Counsel able to distinguish between the positions and interests of the other party? B. Did the Client/Counsel use objective criteria for advancing their needs and interests? C. Did the Client/Counsel try to understand and respect the other party's interests? D. Did the Client/Counsel understand which interests are mutual and which are conflicting and use this to their advantage? E. Did the Client/Counsel show flexibility in light of new/unforeseen information? F. Did the Client/Counsel manage to secure all or most of their primary Interests? If not, did they strategically choose to concede on an interest?	Out of 15
8.	Overall Strategy- A. Were the Client/Counsel able to manage their own time in an efficient manner? B. Were the Client/Counsel respectful of the opposing party's opinions, and did they manage emotionally charged moments effectively? C. Did the Client/Counsel use their confidential information strategically? D. Did the Client/Counsel engage in good faith negotiation using ethical and legitimate methods? E. Were the Client/Counsel able to deal with concerns and emotions appropriately? F. Did the client/counsel use their BATNA at the right moment (s)?	Out of 20
	TOTAL	100