

**Newcastle University Bar Society**  
**Mooting Competition 2026**  
**Rules and Guidelines**



**Newcastle**  
**Bar Society**



## **1. Purpose of the Competition**

- 1.1.** The Newcastle University Bar Society Mooting Competition 2026 (“the Competition”) is organised by the Newcastle University Bar Society and is sponsored by Trinity Chambers.
- 1.2.** The Competition aims to provide students with practical experience in appellate-style advocacy, develop oral and written advocacy skills, and prepare competitors for external mooting competitions, mini-pupillages, and professional legal practice.

## **2. Eligibility**

- 2.1.** The Competition is open exclusively to members of the Newcastle University Bar Society.
- 2.2.** Eligible members include students enrolled at Newcastle University and University of Law, provided they hold a valid Bar Society membership at the time of the Competition.
- 2.3.** Any participant who does not hold a valid Bar Society membership will be disqualified from the Competition.

## **3. Structure of the Competition**

- 3.1.** The Competition shall consist of three rounds:
  - a)** Round 1: 9–11 February 2026;
  - b)** Semi-Final: Week commencing 16 March 2026;
  - c)** Grand Final: 29 April 2026.
- 3.2.** Each round shall involve 2v2 moots, with each team comprising one Senior Counsel and one Junior Counsel per side.
- 3.3.** Progression from Round 1 shall be determined on an individual basis. The eight highest-scoring individual mooters will advance to the Semi-Finals.
- 3.4.** Mooters advancing to the Semi-Finals shall be randomly re-paired. Where both members of an original team progress, it shall be at the discretion of the Mooting Officers whether that team remains intact.
- 3.5.** Tie-breaks shall be determined at the discretion of the judges.
- 3.6.** In the event that a team withdraws from a scheduled moot, the remaining team may be required to moot ex parte.

## **4. Moot Problems and Authorities**

- 4.1.** Each round of the Competition shall use a different moot problem.
- 4.2.** For Round 1, competitors shall be provided with the facts and a complete bundle of authorities.
- 4.3.** In Round 1, competitors are strictly prohibited from relying on authorities outside the provided bundle.



- 4.4. For the Semi-Final and Grand Final rounds, only the facts shall be provided. Competitors are responsible for conducting their own legal research.

## 5. Written Submissions

- 5.1. Written submissions are required for all rounds of the competition.
- 5.2. Submissions shall take the form of skeleton arguments.
- 5.3. Skeleton arguments must not exceed two pages in total per team.
- 5.4. Submissions must be filed in PDF format.
- 5.5. Skeleton arguments and bundles must be emailed to the judges no later than one week prior to the scheduled oral hearing with the exception of Round 1.

## 6. Oral Advocacy and Judicial Intervention

- 6.1. Judges are advised to intervene and ask questions at any point during oral submissions.
- 6.2. The clock shall be stopped during judicial interventions.
- 6.3. There shall be no right of reply in any round of the Competition.

## 7. Assessment and Marking

- 7.1. Competitors shall be assessed individually.
- 7.2. Advancement through the Competition shall be based on individual scores.
- 7.3. Judges shall assess advocacy quality only and must not assess the substantive merits of the legal outcome.
- 7.4. The marking criteria shall be set out in a detailed mark scheme, which shall be made available to competitors via hyperlink and circulated separately.
  - a) [Mooting Mark Scheme](#)

## 8. Judges and Feedback

- 8.1. Round 1 shall be judged by Sylvia De Mars, Colin Murray, and Helene Tyrrell.
- 8.2. The Semi-Final shall be judged by a barrister from Trinity Chambers.
- 8.3. The Grand Final shall be judged by Lord Doherty in The Supreme Court.
- 8.4. Judges are permitted to decline to give judgment on the facts of the moot problem.
- 8.5. Following each moot, judges shall reserve 15–30 minutes to consider scores before providing oral feedback.
- 8.6. Competitors may request their individual marking sheets from the mooting officers after the conclusion of all moots.



**9. Courtroom Etiquette and Dress Code**

- 9.1.** Competitors must address the court using the form “My Lord” or “My Lady”.
- 9.2.** Counsel must stand when addressing the court.
- 9.3.** Competitors must wear appropriate courtroom attire. Wigs, gowns, and bands are not required.

**10. General Provisions**

**10.1.** The Mooting Officers reserve the right to issue clarifications or make minor amendments to these Rules where necessary to ensure the fair and efficient running of the Competition.

**10.2.** Any matter not expressly provided for in these Rules shall be determined by the Mooting Officers, whose decision shall be final.