



DEAKIN LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY COMPETITION RULES

Current as of July 2023

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1 DEFINITIONS

ALSA refers to the Australian Law Students' Association.

Competitor means any person who has signed up for a competition.

External Competition means any competition run by other organisations or student societies outside the Deakin Law Students' Society.

Faculty Staff means any staff member within the Deakin Faculty of Law.

Internal Competition means any competition run exclusively by the Deakin Law Students' Society.

Judge refers to any senior student or member of the Deakin Law School Faculty who is represented as such.

Senior Law Student refers to a student who has relevant experience or expertise in the subject matter.

Sponsored Judge refers to a judge provided by the sponsoring firm.

Exceptional Circumstances means the sickness of a family member, distress to a family member or oneself, a family member's need of care or support, a severe personal situation or the like deemed acceptable by the Director of Competitions.

Officer has the same meaning as in Part 2 of the Deakin Law Students' Society Constitution.

2 PURPOSE

2.1 The Deakin Law Students' Society Competition Rules ('**Competition Rules**') provides a concrete guide for expectations and standards in Deakin Law Students' Society ('**DLSS**') competitions.

2.2 The Competition Rules aims to provide clarity as to the ongoing rules to ensure consistency across competitions for future years.

3. SCOPE

3.1 The **Competition Rules** apply to the Director of Competitions, Competitions Officers and any competitors.

3.2 The Director of Competitions may change the **Competitions Rules** at their discretion.

4. WHO IS A COMPETITOR

4.1 A competitor is any person who has signed up to compete in a competition. The following people are **not** permitted to compete in competitions.

4.1.1 President of the Deakin Law Students' Society.

4.1.2 An officer of the Competitions portfolio.

4.1.3 Any non-Deakin University students.

4.1.4 Students who graduated with an LLB/JD.

4.2 This list may be amended at the discretion of the Director of Competitions.

5. COMPETITORS CODE OF CONDUCT

5.1 The Director of Competitions may establish a code of conduct by which competitors are to abide by for internal competitions.

5.1.1 The code of conduct should be given to competitors at the start of each internal competition and/or be available on the DLSS website.

5.1.2 The code of conduct should outline that competitors may only withdraw from an internal competition in exceptional circumstances as defined in section 1 of these rules.

5.2 Competitors should act in good faith throughout the competition process.

5.3 Any breaches of the Code of Conduct should be dealt with in accordance with Section 11 of the **Competition Rules**.

6. INTERNAL COMPETITIONS - STRUCTURE

6.1 Internal competitions are run at the discretion of the Director of Competitions. This includes the timing and which competitions are offered throughout the relevant period.

6.2 Internal competitions should be conducted over a four to five-week period.

6.2.1 Week one - competitors receive the fact scenario.

6.2.2 Week two - competitors compete in the heats.

6.2.3 Week three - competitors compete in the semi-finals.

6.2.4 Week four - competitors compete in the grand final.

6.2.5 A week may be reserved for unforeseen events or account for inter-trimester breaks.

6.2.6 Any changes to the timeline should be communicated to all competitors as soon as reasonably possible.

6.3 Competitors should have the fact scenario for approximately one week before competing.

6.3.1 If circumstances require, the timing to release fact scenarios may be altered by the Competitions Portfolio.

7. INTERNAL COMPETITIONS - JUDGES AND SCORING

7.1 Judges should be provided with bench notes for all competitions.

7.1.1 Judges should also be instructed on the rules that are provided to competitors to ensure consistency and accuracy in marking.

7.1.2 At least one Competition Officer should supervise each heat or semi-final to ensure consistency of judging.

7.1.3 Competition Officers are responsible for time-keeping and organisational duties.

7.1.4 All communication with judges and sponsored judges should be professional and courteous.

7.2 Faculty staff or senior law students should be used to judge competition heats and semi-finals.

7.2.1 If sponsored, a sponsored judge may be provided by the firm for the Grand-Final.

7.2.2 If not sponsored, faculty staff should be used for the Grand Final.

7.3 If a judge is unable to be present at a competition round, the Competitions Portfolio may video and/or audio record a competitor's presentation and send it to another judge to be marked.

7.4 Marking sheets should be checked and made accurate for the relevant competition before using them.

7.4.1 A competitor may request the marking sheet at the end of the heats/semi-final or Grand Final.

7.4.2 In the interest of fairness, marking sheets will only be provided after all heats or semi-finals have concluded.

7.5 Scores are non-contestable unless there are grounds for a dispute as set out in section 11.

7.6 The Director of Competitions reserves the right to amend competitor scores where there is an obvious display of inconsistency amongst judges.

7.6.1 If scores require moderation, the Director of Competitions will order a meeting with their competition officers to discuss and review all relevant factors. A majority decision will be required to amend any score.

8. INTERNAL COMPETITIONS - PARTNERING AND WITHDRAWAL

8.1 If a competitor signs up solo, they should have the choice to request a partner or choose to compete solo.

8.1.1 If they request a partner, the Competitions portfolio will endeavour to pair them with similar skill qualifications, age and availability to compete if possible.

8.1.2 If they request to compete solo, the competitor should be made aware of how to compete as an individual.

8.1.3 If a request for a partner has been made but there is no one to pair them with, the Director of Competitions may offer the competitor to withdraw or to continue in the competition as a solo competitor.

8.2 If a competitor withdraws from the competition after the heats have commenced, the following steps can be taken:

8.2.1 The remaining competitor chooses whether to withdraw and forfeit their spot in the next round or,

8.2.2 The competitor can elect to have a new partner. Should this be the case, the highest-scoring individual who did not proceed to the next round should be offered the spot to rejoin the competition with the remaining competitor.

8.2.3 The competitor can elect to compete solo moving forward and should be made aware of how to compete as an individual.

8.2.4 If the remaining competitor also chooses to withdraw, the next highest-scoring team who did not proceed to the next round should be offered a spot to rejoin the competition.

8.2.5 All parties should consent to the decision made before continuing the competition.

8.3 In instances where a team does not have a direct opponent due to reasons such as uneven signups or late withdrawal, the team can still compete and present their submissions. The Director of Competitions should amend the scoresheet accordingly.

9. INTERNAL COMPETITIONS - MISCELLANEOUS

9.1 If a sponsored event, in-person attendance by competitors is required for the Grand Final unless agreed to with the Director of Competitions and the firm. If in-person attendance is required, this should be made known to competitors at the earliest stage possible.

9.2 Prizes are at the discretion of the Director of Competitions and may include:

9.2.1 Trophies

9.2.2 Certificates

9.2.3 Complimentary tickets to a DLSS event

9.2.4 An invitation to compete in a prestigious external competition

9.2.5 Anything else deemed appropriate by the Director of Competitions

9.3 Audiences, other than as approved by Competitions Director, are only permitted at Grand Final events and not during heats or semi-finals.

10. EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

10.1 The Director of Competitions is responsible for overseeing information on external competitions. The Director may:

101.1 Appoint a Competitions Officer to be in charge of researching and informing students of potential external opportunities.

10.1.2 Recommend students to attend external competitions, whether ALSA is affiliated or not.

10.1.3 Consider the resources available within the DLSS and Faculty as to whether we can support external competitions financially.

10.2 Any Moot-related external competitions that the Director of Competitions identifies as relevant must consult the relevant faculty member before proceeding by making any commitments.

10.3 Any other external competitions that may involve faculty must be facilitated through the Director of Competitions and the President.

10.4 Competitors in external competitions are subject to the rules and regulations of the relevant organisation.

10.5 Where possible, winners of internal competitions should be offered spots to compete in relevant external competitions.

11. DISPUTES WITH COMPETITORS

11.1 Disputes should be brought to the attention of the Director of Competitions by filling in the 'DLSS Internal Competitions Dispute Form' (**'Dispute Form'**) available on the DLSS Website.

11.2 Disputes may arise between competitors, judges, clients, witnesses or a member of the competitions portfolio. A dispute may be but is not limited to:

11.2.1 Prejudicial or discriminatory conduct

11.2.2 Unfair or exploitative behaviour

11.2.3 Evidence of intentional bias

11.2.4 Inappropriate communication

11.2.5 Conflict of interest between parties, judges, clients or witnesses

11.2.6 Evidence of intentional cross-team collusion

11.2.7 Failing to respect the authority of judges or DLSS officials

11.2.8 Breaching the DLSS Competitor Code of Conduct

11.3 A competitor should raise a dispute using the Dispute Form as soon as they become aware of any potential misconduct.

11.4 The Director of Competitions will attempt to resolve the dispute as soon as reasonably possible.

11.4.1 If the dispute is manageable, the Director of Competitions should attempt to resolve the issue themselves.

11.4.2 The Director of Competitions should minimise any conflicts of interest in the dispute resolution process.

11.4.3 If a complaint is made against the Director of Competitions, the Executive Committee of the DLSS will be required to assist in the dispute resolution process.

11.5 If the dispute interferes with the integrity and professionalism of the competition, the Director of Competitions should make an appropriate decision and inform the Executive Committee of the DLSS.

11.6 If the dispute has severe consequences and potentially impacts the reputation of the DLSS, the Director of Competitions should contact the President immediately.

11.6.1 If the competition is sponsored, the Director(s) of Sponsorship should also be immediately notified.

11.7 A dispute, or any action in contravention of the DLSS Competitor Code of Conduct and Competition Rules, may result in:

11.7.1 Penalisation of the competitor(s) for the relevant conduct.

11.7.2 Disqualification of the relevant competitor(s).

11.7.3 Prohibiting the competitor(s) from competing in any future competitions.

11.7.4 Any other course of action deemed appropriate by the Director.

11.8 Submitting a report that is knowingly false or misleading is subject to consequences deemed appropriate by the Director of Competitions and DLSS Executive Committee.

11.9 All decisions communicated by the Competitions Portfolio are final.