



OFFERINGS POLICY 2024-25

The following shall be the Offering Policy of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Board for the Academic Year 2024-25. The ADR Board reserves the right to add, modify, or repeal any rule, in order to remove difficulties.

1. Competitions Offered

The ADR Board shall notify a list of competitions, post the University Selection Rounds, that will be offered to the student body.

2. Definitions

In this policy, unless otherwise notified, the following terms shall be interpreted as defined below:

- 2.1 The “*ADR Board*” refers to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Board constituted under the SBA Committee Guidelines
- 2.2 The “*University Pool of 2024-25*” comprises of those teams that qualified to the oral rounds of the University Selection Rounds 2024-25
- 2.3 A “*team*” refers to a pair that registers and participates in the University selection rounds together
- 2.4 “*Past Year Ranking*” (“*PYR*”) refers to rankings obtained by a member of a previous University Pool, such as the University Pool 2023-24 through the University Selection Rounds 2023-24 or University Pool 2022-23 through the University Selection Rounds 2022-23 and so on.
- 2.5 “*ADR competitions*” refer to any competition, national or international, that primarily focuses on the fields of Negotiation, Mediation, or Client Counselling including Mediation-Arbitration and Negotiation-Arbitration Competitions
- 2.6 “*ADR related activity*” refers to any activity which focuses primarily on Alternative Dispute Resolution and does not fall within the ambit of another SBA Committee.
- 2.7 “*ADR Manager*” refers to the point of contact notified by the ADR Board to the participants of a competition offered under this policy.
- 2.8 “*Confirmation of a competition*” refers to a participant confirming their acceptance of the offer of participation in any competition offered by the ADR Board.



2.9 “Joint Selection Procedure” (“JSP”) refers to any procedure jointly decided by ADR Board along with another committee for competitions that may not fall completely or purely within the mandate of either committee such as Business Negotiation Festivals and Mediation-Arbitration Competitions.

3. Method of Offerings

3.1 Competitions will be offered on the basis of one of the following criteria – the ranks obtained in the University Selection Rounds or, based on an Open Challenger, *if deemed necessary by the ADR Board in consultation with the faculty advisor and SBA*. The particular method for selection for each competition will be notified by the ADR Board.

3.2 The ADR Board reserves the right to offer competitions in any other method, including based on PYR or through a JSP in exceptional circumstances in consultation with the faculty advisor and the Student Bar Association.

Explanation: ‘Exceptional circumstances’ can include instances when the timeline of the competition clashes with the offerings or the university selection rounds, or when the university selection rounds’ offerings get delayed, or for any other reason the team is likely to lose preparation time for the competition or be disadvantaged in any other way.

4. Composition of Teams for Competitions Offered through University Rounds

4.1 These competitions will be offered, first to the University Pool of 2024-25, constituted after the conclusion of University Selection Rounds 2024-25. If two or more teams from the same Pool apply for a competition, first preference will be given to the team which has done fewer competitions based on the rank attained in that Pool. If the number of competitions done is the same, then preference will be given to the higher ranked team.

4.1.2 For competitions requiring an even number of members, preference will always be given to teams over individual applications, irrespective of the ranks or number of competitions done.

Illustration: X and Y are a team. If they split and separately apply to competitions requiring an even number of members, other team applications will be given preference over them.



4.1.3 Team members may not apply for any competition as a team with any individual other than their original teammate from the University Selection rounds whose rank they are attempting to use for the application.

Illustration: X and Y participated in the University Selection Rounds 2024-25 as a team. Similarly A and B also were also a team in the same Pool. X cannot apply for a competition with B. Either X can apply with Y, as a team, or apply individually. If, however, X and B were teammates for the University Selection Rounds 2023-24, they may apply as a team when offerings are made based on PYR.

4.1.4 For competitions requiring an odd number of members, persons must apply individually for the odd spot. If the number of required participants exceeds one, preference will be given to as many teams as possible before creating the odd spot.

Illustration: If a competition requires 2 members for negotiation and 1 mediator, teams will be given preference for applying for the negotiation spots. However, persons must apply individually for the mediator spot.

If a competition requires 3 negotiators, teams will be given for 2 spots and the third spot will be given to an individual.

4.1.5 For competitions requiring an odd number of members, if two members of the same team apply for the same odd spot and are unable to resolve by agreement who will take the spot, the ADR Board shall resolve the situation through a coin toss.

Illustration: X and Y are a team. A particular competition requires 2 members for negotiation and 1 mediator. If both X and Y apply for the mediator spot and are unable to agree on who will take it, the ADR Board will decide who will occupy the spot by a coin toss.

4.2 If enough applications to fill the offered spots are not received as per 4.1, then the competition shall be offered on the basis of the Previous Year Ranks for the University Selection Rounds 2023-24. Teams shall be chosen in the same manner stipulated in clause 4.1.

4.3 If, after exhausting the process under 4.1 and 4.2, no application is received, it will be offered on the basis of the Written Qualifier Results of the University Pool of 2024-25. The preference given to teams that applied for an offering shall be the same as stipulated in 4.1.

4.4 A team taking a second competition, in the order of offering, can only take up the second competition if the oral rounds or written component submission (whichever is



earlier) of the second competition is at a minimum, one month after the oral rounds of the first competition.

Provided that a team or individual member from the University Pool may pick a second competition before the conclusion of their first competition, only if the second competition's oral rounds conclude, *at minimum*, three months prior to the oral rounds or written component submission (whichever is earlier) of the first competition.

However, for the purposes of the offerings, the first competition will be treated as one competition picked up. The team or individual may not pick up a competition if the timeline of their competition is unspecified or uncertain.

4.5 If a team/individual signs up for a competition, confirms their participation, and then pulls out of it any time before the competition commences or does not comply with any guidelines as notified by the ADR Board for the competition, they will be issued a show-cause notice by the ADR Board and the Board may:

4.5.1 Ban the individual/team from ADR related activities for a minimum of one year from the date of the imposition of the ban; and/or

4.5.2 Impose penalties which may be compensatory and/or punitive in nature, depending on the circumstances of each case. Such penalties shall be enforced in consultation with the Student Welfare Officer or the DCRL.

4.5.3 Reasonable grounds for withdrawal including but not limited to any medical condition inhibiting participation shall not attract such penalty or ban.

4.5.4 The decision of the ADR Board shall be final in this regard, after consultation with the DCRL or the Faculty Advisors.

4.5.5 In case the host institution allows for re-registering/changing of participant's names, the Board will offer the competition in accordance with clause 4 of this document. However, the team pulling out will still be issued a show-cause notice.

4.6 The onus of completing the registration procedure rests with the team. Further, teams are required to take reasonable efforts to obtain all information regarding the competition themselves. The ADR Board or ADR Manager will *purely* have a facilitative role such as forwarding email communication.



- 4.7 In the event that a competition that has been offered does not happen or in case of no response from the organisers for an extended period of time, the team that was allotted that competition will be deemed to have not taken that competition and as such it will not be counted towards the competitions availed under that year's rank. However, no re-offering of competitions shall take place for this reason. The team must inform the ADR Board with an email attaching necessary proofs to invoke this clause.
- 4.8 For all relevant purposes, the timestamp as displayed in the ADR Board's email account will be considered as the final proof of the time of application.
- 4.9 If any team/individual wishes to take up any competition related to ADR in any manner, the prior permission of the ADR Board has to be taken before applying for the same. Failing to take permission will lead to the team/ individual being asked to show cause for the lack of permission. Further, this may attract a ban and/or any other penalties imposed by the ADR Board as the Board deems fit.
- 4.10 All communication with the host institution of a competition shall be copied to the ADR Board or intimated to the ADR Manager to ensure transparency.
- 4.11 The ADR Board may, through show-cause proceedings, impose penalties under 4.5 in case an individual misrepresents to host institutions or other third parties for gaining participation, sponsorship or any other purposes.
- 4.12 Each team shall mandatorily participate in at least three practice rounds before being permitted to participate in any competition offered by the ADR Board. This will be supervised by the ADR Manager. This requirement may be relaxed in exceptional circumstances.
- 4.13 In case of any doubts or disputes, the decision of the ADR Board, in consultation with the DCRL or the Faculty Advisor, shall be final and binding.

5. Procedure for Selection for CV Qualifier Competitions

CV Qualifier Competitions are those competitions which have an entry requirement for participating in the competition. This entry requirement usually requires the team to have participated and performed in other competitions before. CV Qualifier Competitions for the purposes of this clause in AY 2024-25 only include the following competitions:

- A. CDRC Vienna (both Mediation slots to be offered as individual slots and not as a team slot)
- B. Warsaw Negotiation Competition



C. CPR Brazil

5.1 In order to qualify to pick up a CV Qualifier Competition, each member of the applying team from the University Pool of 2024-25 must have taken up a total of *at least* two competitions and achieved a result of Semi-Finalist or better in *at least* one, with *at least* one of the competitions being an international competition.

Explanation 1: Clause 5.1 serves only as a minimum qualifying benchmark and no additional analysis of the CV will take place.

Explanation 2: "Taken up" shall mean two competitions must have been taken up in previous offerings, and participation in the same must conclude before the commencement of the rounds of the CV Qualifier Competition applied for.

Illustration: If X and Y are two teams having members that fulfil the criteria set in Clause 5.1 and Y has done more total competitions and has better performance, X will still be offered the slot of their preferred competition over Y as long as they are ranked higher in the University Rounds 2024-25.

5.2 The ADR Board will notify a list of competitions that count towards the criterion of international competitions for the purposes of this clause. These competitions may include certain competitions held within India or domestically as well. (E.g. Lex Infinitum and HSF-NLU Delhi International Negotiation Competition).

5.3 For competitions that do not have a semi-final stage, for the purposes of this clause, qualifying for the rounds subsequent to the preliminary oral rounds (popularly known as 'breaking to the next round') of the competition shall satisfy the criterion of having achieved the result of being a Semi-Finalist.

5.4 If enough applications for the CV Qualifier Competitions notified in this clause are not received, the same shall be offered on the basis of Previous Year Ranks for the University Pool 2023-24. This shall be subject to the same qualification requirement in clause 5.1.

5.5 If there are insufficient applications for the CV Qualifier Competitions from the rank pool of the past University Rounds (2023-24), it shall be offered to the current year University Pool of 2024-25 in accordance with clause 4.1, without the qualification requirements in clause 5.1.



5.6 Each participating team is required to submit proofs of participation to the ADR Board two days before the offerings take place for vetting. Competitions participated in outside the ADR Offerings can be claimed by submitting relevant proofs of participation but not merely registration.

6. *Grievance Redressal Mechanism*

All grievances arising out of an Open Challenger, the University Rounds, or any other activity conducted by the ADR Board in the AY 2024-25 may be raised only in the following manner:

6.1 The grievance shall first be communicated to the Co-Convenors of the ADR Board within 48 hours of the cause of action arising. The Co-Convenors shall respond to the same within 48 hours of receiving the same.

6.2 If unsatisfied with the decision, the aggrieved party may make an appeal to the SBA Co-Presidents within 24 hours of receiving the Co-Convenor's decision. The Co-Presidents shall respond within 48 hours of the said appeal.

6.3 A final appeal against the decision of the SBA Co-Presidents may be made to a panel comprising the ADR Faculty Advisor, the SBA Advisor and the DCRL within 24 hours of receiving the SBA Co-Presidents' decision. The decision of this panel shall be final and binding.

All grievances must be submitted in writing stating the grievance and the resolution sought.

7. *Miscellaneous*

Please find below certain *principles of consideration* that have been adopted for the Offerings Policy 2024-25 below:

7.1. “Done” under clause 2.1 means “*taking up*” a competition under the ADR Policy.

7.2. The ADR Board can, in consultation with the faculty advisors, deem a participant to not have taken up a competition. For this, two conditions have to be fulfilled. *Firstly*, there has to be *ample* time for re-offering of the competition; and *secondly*, the reasons for backing out have to reasonably be outside the control of the participant.

7.3. In the absence of any one of the two conditions mentioned above, participants will be deemed to have done a competition as long as they have taken up the competition and the exception under clause 2.7 of the policy does not apply.