

THE MAXWELL CHALLENGE 2026 PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code applies to all student participants in the Maxwell Challenge ("participants") — whether competing as counsel, client, or mediator — and to team coaches in their interactions with the competition. It supplements and is to be read alongside the [Maxwell Challenge Rules](#) ("Rules"). Compliance with this Code is a condition of participation. Where concerns arise regarding compliance with this Code, the participants concerned should, where appropriate, first be encouraged to engage in a collaborative resolution process, including facilitation or mediation, before any determination of breach is made. Where a breach is identified, the Organising Committee may impose measures under Clause 14.2 of the Rules, including warnings, point deductions, score adjustments, or disqualification.

In the event of any inconsistency between this Code and the Rules, the Rules shall prevail.

- 1. Respect and professionalism.** The Maxwell Challenge brings together participants, mediators, judges, and assessors from many countries, legal traditions, languages, and cultural backgrounds. Participants will treat all other participants, mediators, judges, assessors, organisers, and venue staff with courtesy, professionalism, and cultural respect at all times.
- 2. Honesty in submissions.** All written submissions, recordings, and team materials must be the participants' own work, accurately represent the team's composition and credentials, and be free of plagiarism or fabricated authority. Sources used in preparation must be properly acknowledged. Participants must compete under their actual identities; substitution of team members outside the procedures specified in the Rules is prohibited.
- 3. Use of artificial intelligence in preparation.** Participants may use artificial intelligence tools in preparation, drafting, and research, subject to the [IBA Guidelines on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Mediation \(2024\)](#) and the [IMI Code of Professional Conduct for Mediators](#). Any such use must be transparent, must not be presented as the team's own analysis, and must be acknowledged in the manner specified by the Rules.
- 4. Use of artificial intelligence during sessions and recordings.** Participants may not use artificial intelligence tools during the live in-person mediation sessions or during the recorded online pre-mediation component, except where the Rules expressly permit a defined and limited use. AI-generated video, voice synthesis, manipulation of likeness, or any technique that misrepresents the identity, presence, or contribution of a team member is prohibited under any circumstances.
- 5. Confidentiality.** Participants will not disclose any confidential information, draft case materials, mediation case statements, or the substance of any session in which they participate. Confidential information is released in stages set out in the Rules; materials disclosed in connection with one component may not be referenced or used in earlier phases for which they were not yet authorised. Because case scenarios may be reused with different confidential information across rounds and

editions of the Challenge, the duty of confidentiality continues after the conclusion of the Challenge and applies equally to materials encountered in any round.

- 6. Recordings and use of recorded material.** The online pre-mediation component is recorded for assessment purposes. By participating, each team consents to the recording, to its review by mediators, judges, and the Organising Committee, and to use of the recording (in whole or excerpted) by Maxwell Chambers and the Organising Committee for assessment, educational, and competition-related purposes. Participants may not edit, manipulate, deepfake, voice-synthesise, or otherwise alter recordings; may not redistribute, post publicly, or share recordings with non-participants; and may not record live in-person sessions without prior written authorisation from the Organising Committee.
- 7. Fair play and integrity of competition.** Participants will not seek to contact judges, assessors, mediators, or Organising Committee members about case substance outside the structured competition process; will not seek advance or unauthorised access to confidential materials; will not consult external mediators or practitioners about case substance during the competition period; and will respect assigned roles, schedules, room allocations, and time limits. Participants will not publish or share specific case content on social media or in other public forums during the competition period, although general references to their participation are welcomed and encouraged.
- 8. Student mediators.** Student mediators serving in mediator team roles assume additional obligations of impartiality and confidentiality. Student mediators will: (a) approach each session without favour to any team; (b) disclose to the Organising Committee any prior personal, academic, or institutional connection with a competing team in advance of the relevant session; (c) refrain from carrying information about parties, strategy, or substance between sessions or to other persons; and (d) at all times maintain the standards of conduct expected of a mediator in real-world practice, having regard to the [*IMI Code of Professional Conduct for Mediators*](#).
- 9. Coach involvement.** Coaches may guide their teams in preparation but must not communicate with participants about the substance of an ongoing session while it is in progress, observe live sessions other than those in which their team participates (unless authorised by the Rules), or convey confidential information between teams, sessions, or rounds.
- 10. Compliance and reporting.** Participants will comply with the directions of the Organising Committee, mediators, and venue staff. Suspected breaches of this Code may be reported promptly and in confidence to the Organising Committee at competition@maxwellchambers.com. The Organising Committee will deal with reports under the procedures in the Rules.

By participating in the Maxwell Challenge, each participant acknowledges that they have read and accept this Code of Conduct.