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**SUNSHINE COAST SCHOOLS**

**MOOTING COMPETITION**

# INFORMATION BOOKLET

A joint initiative of the ***University of the Sunshine Coast*** and ***Sunshine Coast Grammar School***



## WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in the Sunshine Coast High School Mooting Competition. This booklet contains the relevant information for coaches, students and their families.

Please also refer to the Competition Rules for more detailed particulars about the Competition.

## RELEVANT CONTACTS

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| **Mooting Convenor:** | Leon Harris  Clinical Legal Educator  University of the Sunshine Coast |
|  | [lharris@usc.edu.au](mailto:lharris@usc.edu.au) |
| **School Co-ordinators:** | Caitlyn Brown & Ben Princehorn  Sunshine Coast Grammar School |
|  | [cbrown@scgs.qld.edu.au](mailto:cbrown@scgs.qld.edu.au)  [bprincehorn@scgs.qld.edu.au](mailto:bprincehorn@scgs.qld.edu.au)  07 5445 4444 |
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**WHAT IS MOOTING?**

A moot is a simulated court hearing which imitates procedures followed in real courts. It is an opportunity for students to consider a legal problem, prepare written submissions and then use their oral presentation skills to present arguments before a judge or judges.

**Mooting is not the same as public speaking or debating.** Mooting involves a conversation with a judge about the case. Competitors will need to rely on authorities of law to persuade the judge to find in their favour. Judges will question advocates during their oral submissions so preparing for a moot in the same way as a speech or debate is unhelpful.

There are many reasons why high school students might choose to participate in a moot. Mooting allows competitors to:

1. Engage with interesting and topical legal issues;
2. Enhance advocacy and writing skills; and
3. Collaborate with peers.

There will be an information video made available via the [High School Mooting Competition website](https://www.usc.edu.au/community/schools-engagement/schools-engagement-events/sunshine-coast-schools-mooting-competition) which will provide more detailed information about mooting and this competition.

## PRESCRIBED TEXTBOOK

Joel Butler and Terry Gygar, *Australasian Mooting Manual* (LexisNexis, 2nd ed, 2012)

This textbook contains vital information on a range of relevant topics including:

* How to prepare your written submissions;
* Tips and tricks for making oral submissions;
* How to address the judges and respond to questions during the moot; and
* What to expect on the day.

The textbook provides necessary background information about mooting.

Those wishing to purchase the text can obtain the text as an eBook or in hard copy from: [https://store.lexisnexis.com.au/product?product=lexisnexis-skill-seriesaustralasian-mooting-manual-2nd-edition&meta\_F\_and=9780409329162](https://store.lexisnexis.com.au/product?product=lexisnexis-skill-series-australasian-mooting-manual-2nd-edition&meta_F_and=9780409329162)

**PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION**

Students are eligible to participate if they are studying Year 11 or 12 Legal Studies at a Sunshine Coast High School (we will also accept schools from beyond Sunshine Coast as well). We require students to have a basic understanding of the Australian

Legal System and have based the problem question around what is studied in the Year

11 Legal Studies curriculum

Each mooting team must be made up of two to five students. Only two students will make oral submissions in any moot; however, legal research, devising arguments and drafting written submissions is a big undertaking. Having a group of up to five students means students can share the preparation load and there is a “backup” speaker in case of illness or other extenuating circumstances. Students who are not speaking during the moot can sit at the bar table with the speakers to assist them as necessary (and as space permits).

Each team must have a coach. The coach will be responsible for registering the team, corresponding with the mooting convenor and event organisers, and providing general advice and support to the students. The coach can be the Legal Studies teacher, another teacher or a community member/parent.

## TEAM REGISTRATION

Each team must register for the Competition. Team registration closes on Friday, 22 March 2024 at 5:00pm. There is no fee to participate in the Competition. Coaches can register their team by completing the registration form found on the [High School Mooting Competition website.](https://www.usc.edu.au/community/schools-engagement/schools-engagement-events/sunshine-coast-schools-mooting-competition)

Schools may submit multiple teams. Schools with multiple teams must register each team individually as they will become competitors. As per the Competition Rules, competitors from one team are not allowed to collaborate with other teams (even those from the same school).

## MOOTING ROUNDS

There will be two venues for the Preliminary Rounds.

1. Sunshine Coast Grammar School, 372 Mons Rd, Forest Glen
2. Unity College, 47 Lomond Cres, Caloundra West

The Semi-Finals and Grand Finals of the Mooting Competition will be held at the University of the Sunshine Coast Moot Court (J.G.15), 90 Sippy Downs Dr, Sippy Downs.

## SUMMARY OF RELEVANT DATES

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|  | **Date** | **Place/venue** |
| **Team Registration Open** | Monday 4th March | Online  [**School Holidays between 29th March-14th April]** |
| **Team Registration Closes** | Friday 22nd March | Online |
| **Mooting Problem Released** | Friday 22nd March | Online |
| **Written Submissions due for round 1** | Monday, 6 May | By email |
| **Opposing team’s submissions emailed** | Tuesday, 7 May | By email |
| **Preliminary Round 1** | **Monday, 13 May** | SCGS or Unity College |
| **Feedback for Round 1 Submissions** | Tuesday, 14 May | By email |
| **Written Submissions due for round 2** | Monday, 20 May | By email |
| **Opposing team’s submissions emailed** | Tuesday, 21 May | By email |
| **Preliminary Round 2** | **Monday, 27 May** | SCGS or Unity College |
| **Feedback for Round 2 Submissions** | Tuesday, 28 May | By email |
| **Written Submissions Due (if submitting updated version) (Semi Finals)** | Thursday, 30 May | By email |
| **Opposing team’s submissions emailed (Semi Finals)** | Friday, 31st May | By email |
| **Semi Finals** | **Monday, 3 June** | University of the Sunshine Coast, Moot Court, JG15 |
| **Written Submissions Due (if submitting updated version) (Grand Finals)** | Thursday, 6 June | By email |
| **Opposing team’s submissions emailed (Grand Finals)** | Friday, 7 June | By email |
| **Grand Finals** | **Monday, 10 June** | University of the Sunshine Coast, Moot Court, JG15 |