

NALSAR FORUMS



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INTERIM RULES

1. Short Title
 - a. These Rules may be called the NALSAR Forums Rules (“Rules”).
 - b. These Rules shall come into force on a date notified by the SBC Academic Committee and shall remain in force until further notice by the SBC Academic Committee.
2. Purpose and scope of the Forums
 - a. To supplement learning by facilitating discussion.
 - b. To serve as a repository for course material and recorded lectures.
 - c. To act as a platform that facilitates general discussion among the students across batches or between the students and the faculty.
 - d. To facilitate any other activity as may be determined from time-to-time.
3. Definitions
 - a. “Alumni” means persons who have graduated from the University after completion of their B.A. LL.B (Hons.), LL.M, or MBA programme, excluding those persons who, after graduating from any of the three programmes, are teaching a course at the University in the July-October semester of 2020.
 - b. “Alumni Cell” is a student body created by the NALSAR Student Bar Council to facilitate networking between Alumni and students of NALSAR.
 - c. “Moderation” means any action taken by a Moderator in accordance with these Rules.
 - d. “Moderator” means any User mentioned under Rule 6 who is responsible under the Rules to moderate the whole or a part of the Forums.
 - e. “NALSARite” means any student currently studying in any batch of the B.A. LL.B (Hons.) programme, or the LL.M or MBA programmes, or any Professor teaching a course at the University in the July-October semester of 2020 including a visiting Professor.
 - f. “NALSAR Forums” or “Forums” is an online discussion board (available at <https://nalsar.ac.in/forums/>) which all the users and the Moderators under the Rules are a part of.
 - g. Not Safe For Work Content (NSFW Content): Content that contains nudity, pornography, or extreme profanity, which a reasonable viewer may not want to be seen accessing in a public or formal setting.
 - h. “Profanity” includes swearing and otherwise obscene Speech.
 - i. “Privacy Policy” is the document on privacy policy as may be updated from time-to-time (available at <https://nalsar.ac.in/forums/privacy-policy/>).
 - j. “Spam” includes any Speech that is completely unrelated to the purposes of any forum.
 - k. “Speech” shall include any act performed by a user on the Forums which is visible to any or all of the Users and/or the Moderators of the Forums.
 - l. “SRSWC” means the Social Responsibility and Student Welfare Committee.

- m. “Super Administrator” is the administrator for the Wordpress console and the keymaster for the Forums who is authorised to edit the website and its settings, reset passwords, change the role of users, create new users and delete or suspend users.
 - n. “University” means NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.
 - o. “User” includes any person or a committee of the Student Bar Council or any other student run or administrative organization of the University or a constituent member thereof who has access to the Forums and/ or is eligible under the Rules to exercise Speech on the Forums.
4. Structure of the Forums
- a. Forums shall be hosted at <https://nalsar.ac.in/forums/> and shall have a corresponding Android application on the Play Store.
 - b. Each course shall have a corresponding forum for housing class recordings, course material and course discussion.
 - c. Each batch shall have a general-purpose forum.
 - d. There shall be a General Forum, which shall be a general-purpose for the entire University.
 - e. There shall be a forum for each SBC Committee.
 - f. There shall be an Alumni Forum, wherein the alumni cell shall facilitate a channel of communication between current students and Alumni.
 - g. There shall be an ‘Ask a Nalsarite’ Forum, wherein non-NALSARites may interact with NALSARites.
 - h. All forums except the ‘Ask a NALSARite’ and the Alumni Forum shall be restricted to NALSARites.
 - i. There shall be forums for technical support, wherein technical support is provided for the functions of the library, IT Department and the Forums.
 - j. No ‘like,’ ‘upvote/downvote’ feature or any equivalent feature shall be installed on the NALSAR Forums.
 - k. Additional forums may be added and removed by general consensus of the moderators.
5. All Moderation is to be done in accordance with the Rules laid down herein.
6. Moderator roles shall be assigned in the following manner:
- a. The email ID of the SBC Academic Committee shall be the Super Moderator.
 - b. The batch forums and all course-related forums shall be moderated by the SBC Academic Committee.
 - c. The General Forum will be moderated by the SRSWC and the SBC Academic Committee.
 - d. Each SBC committee’s forum shall be moderated by the respective committees.
 - e. The Alumni Forums will be moderated by the Alumni Cell.
 - f. The ‘Ask a Nalsarite’ Forum will be moderated by the SRSWC.
 - g. Each course’s forum will have its course instructor(s) as a Moderator.

- h. The SBC Executive Council's email ID shall be a Moderator of all Forums.
7. The following speech shall be prohibited:
- 1. Classes of Speech prohibited in all forums:
 - a. Speech violative of Indian law
Provided, the reproduction of content protected by copyright will be presumed to be meant for academic purposes.
 - b. Speech violative of the NALSAR Regulations for the Internal Complaints Committee Against Sexual Harassment (accessible at <https://library.nalsar.ac.in/storage/2020/05/NALSAR-Regulations-for-the-Internal-Complaints-Committee-against-Sexual-Harassment-2014-1.pdf>).
 - c. Speech violative of the Hostel and Campus Rules (Accessible at <https://library.nalsar.ac.in/storage/2020/05/nalsar-hostel-and-campus-rules-october-2018.pdf>).
 - d. Non-consensual sharing of another user's private information.
 - e. Targeted harassment or bullying or instigation or suggestion to do the same.
 - f. Impersonation of an individual or entity in a misleading or deceptive manner.
 - g. Spam.
 - h. NSFW Content.
 - 2. Classes of Speech that shall be prohibited in *course-related* forums.
 - a. Profanity, unless for an academic purpose.
 - b. Speech that is deprecating of or is irrelevant to the discussion.
 - c. Speech that a reasonable viewer may consider inappropriate for a classroom setting.
8. Enforcement: The Moderators may, in proportion to the seriousness and recidivism of the offence, use any or combinations of the following means to enforce the Rules:
- a. Alerting Users of rule violations and directing them to stop.
 - b. Removal of content.
 - c. Temporary or permanent suspensions.
 - d. Adding restrictions to the posting privileges of accounts.
9. All instances of enforcement under Rules 9(b), 9(c) and 9(d) shall be recorded by the Moderator administering the same. This record shall be periodically reviewed by the Convenors of the SBC Academic Committee and the SRSWC in conjunction with their Committees. The Moderator shall be required to inform the User against whom action has been taken of the action taken along with reasons.
10. Appeals against enforcement under Rule 9 may be addressed to the Committee or Committees as applicable according to Rule 6, whose members are administrators of the forum in which the infraction was carried out. A further appeal may lie with the Executive Council.
11. The names and profiles of Users shall meet the following requirements:
- a. For students:
 - i. The profiles of the students have been created using their names as mentioned in the University records.

- ii. Students who are changing their name on NALSAR Forums shall not change their name to a name which is not their real name.
 - iii. The display name of a profile of a student shall be in the Name - Roll Number format. [For example - John Doe (2013-124)].
 - iv. The default email ID on the profile is a NALSAR email ID. Students are not allowed to change this email ID to any other email ID.
- b. For Professors
- i. The profiles of professors have been created using the names as mentioned in the University records.
 - ii. Professors who are changing their name on Forums shall not change their name to a name which is not their real name.
- c. For Alumni
- i. The profiles of the alumni are created based on the information provided by the Alumni Cell.
 - ii. Alumni who are changing their name on NALSAR Forums shall not change their name which is not their real name, and should match with the Alumni Cell records.
 - iii. The default email ID on the profile is added as per the records of the Alumni Cell. An Alumnus shall not change this email ID without prior intimation to the Alumni Cell. The Alumni Cell shall inform the Super Administrator through the SBC Academic Committee of such a change.
12. Storage of data shall be done as per the Privacy Policy (available at <https://nalsar.ac.in/forums/privacy-policy/>) of the NALSAR Forums.
13. Any amendment to these Rules requires a simple majority in each of the following: the SBC Academic Committee, the SRSWC and the SBC Executive Council.

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