BAR COUNCIL REGULATIONS 2027

Advocate, Bar Association & Chamber Compliance Checklist | Legal position reviewed 11 November 2026

How to use: This is a monitoring checklist, not a certificate, affidavit or statutory form. Always verify the current notification, applicable State Bar Council direction and court order before acting.

1. Professional conduct and digital ethics

[ ] Review Part VI, Chapter II of the Bar Council of India Rules on standards of professional conduct and etiquette; keep current versions and applicable State directions accessible.

[ ] Apply existing duties of dignity, confidentiality, conflict management, proper professional identity and restrictions on advertising/solicitation to websites, social media, podcasts and AI-assisted content.

[ ] Review BCI Circular BCI:D:4657/2026 dated 17 July 2026 and implementation letter BCI/D/4659/2026; circulate the directions to advocates, interns and chamber staff as applicable.

[ ] Do not record or disclose client conferences, chamber discussions, case files, privileged communications or confidential court material without lawful authority and informed permission where required.

[ ] Before extracting, uploading, editing, reposting, storing or monetising audio-video recordings of judicial proceedings, check the Supreme Court's 24 July 2026 interim order and obtain the required prior permission.

2. Bar Council election compliance

[ ] For State Bar Council elections, check the BCI Uniform Rules and Mandatory Guidelines for Elections of Bar Councils, 2016, including the Chapter III amendment published in Gazette of India Extraordinary No. 280 dated 22 April 2026.

[ ] A Bar Association office-bearer intending to contest a State Bar Council election must file the prescribed undertaking with the Returning Officer at nomination.

[ ] If elected, exercise the written option to retain only one representative post within 15 days after declaration of results and notify both bodies.

[ ] Retain the nomination undertaking, result declaration, written option and proof of communication; check any case-specific direction of the High-Powered Election Supervisory Committee.

3. Enrolment, AIBE and Certificate of Practice

[ ] Verify enrolment particulars, State roll details, practice address and contact information with the relevant State Bar Council.

[ ] Check the latest BCI AIBE notification, syllabus, eligibility conditions, examination schedule and Certificate of Practice dispatch/status notice; do not rely on an earlier exam cycle.

[ ] Preserve degree, enrolment, AIBE, Certificate of Practice, transfer and verification records in a secure digital and physical file.

4. Foreign lawyers and cross-border work

[ ] For any foreign lawyer or foreign law-firm engagement in India, verify registration, reciprocity, permitted scope and restrictions under the 2022 Rules as amended by the Gazette notification dated 13 May 2025.

[ ] Check the amended disciplinary provisions in Chapter V, including Rules 10 and 11, and preserve engagement, conflict and client-consent records.

5. Governance and review controls

Stakeholder	Suggested control
Individual advocate	Quarterly review of online profiles, client-confidentiality controls, advertising practices and court-recording permissions.
Chamber / law office	Written social-media, AI-use, client-file access, intern confidentiality and document-retention protocols.
Bar Association	Keep election records, member communications, digital-ethics awareness records and complaint-routing contacts updated.
State Bar Council / institution	Track BCI circulars, Gazette amendments, AIBE/COP notices, disciplinary procedure and judicial directions.

Primary sources to monitor: Advocates Act, 1961 (India Code); BCI Rules and official notifications; Gazette of India Extraordinary No. 280 dated 22 April 2026 (BCI election amendment); Supreme Court order dated 24 July 2026 in Harshita Grover v. Union of India, W.P.(C) 751/2026; BCI circulars dated 17 July 2026; Gazette notification dated 13 May 2025 on foreign lawyers.

Disclaimer: General educational and compliance-planning aid only. It does not replace the Advocates Act, the full text of BCI/State Bar Council rules, Gazette notifications, binding court orders or legal advice on a specific matter. A circular, rule, judicial order and consultation proposal have different legal status and must not be treated as interchangeable.