

## RULES FOR THE NATIONAL BIOETHICS BOWL COMPETITION, 2017

### PROCEDURAL RULES:

1. In a Bioethics Bowl match each team will be given a case and case question by the moderator to which they must present a response. The cases on which teams will be asked questions at Bioethics Bowl will be taken from the fifteen cases posted on the 2017 Bioethics Bowl website. The questions asked by the moderator will be chosen from among those appearing at the end of each case. Teams will not know in advance which case or question will be selected. **JUDGES AND MODERATORS WILL ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO THE FIFTEEN CASES IN JANUARY AND, LIKE THE TEAMS, THEY WILL NOT BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THE SPECIFIC CASES TEAMS WILL RECEIVE OR WHICH OF THE QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED.**

2. Teams will consist of no fewer than three (3) and no more than six (6) students; only three (3) to five (5) team members may be active participants at any time. To participate in Bioethics Bowl, team members must be undergraduates who are registered at their team's university for undergraduate classes during the spring 2017 competition cycle. Once the team is seated at the table and the match begins, no team member substitutions may be made. Any student who leaves the table during a match cannot return to the table until the case being discussed at the time they left is finished.

3. During competition books and notes will not be allowed; however, the use of scrap paper that will be distributed by the moderator is permitted. At the beginning of the match, the teams will be given a copy of the case and the question to which the presenting team must respond. Teams should not begin to take any notes until the case for the first half of the match has been announced. Students are permitted to pass notes to one another at any point during the match, as long as they are not distracting to the presenting team. At the halfway point in a match, teams will be instructed by the moderator to clear from the table any notes taken during the first half of the match; the second half of the match will commence and new scrap paper may be used.

4. During competition teams are allowed to use their own timers with these restrictions:

- a. The teams must be made to understand that their personal timers are never official—only the moderator keeps official time.
- b. The timers cannot be any device that stores data or connects to the internet (iphones, etc.).

- c. Teams may not time opposing teams.
  - d. Teams must use timers in an unobtrusive fashion -- they should be devices that do not make any noise in order to avoid causing a distraction during the match.
5. During each part of the competition teams have the option of requesting time warnings. If the team requests time warnings, they will receive one warning with three minutes remaining and one warning at one minute remaining. Teams are not permitted to request any other time warnings.
  6. During each team's conferral period, the other team may also confer, but should be conscious of not being a distraction; the moderator will enforce this at their discretion.
  7. At the outset of the match, the Moderator will indicate the case with which the team that goes first (hereinafter Team 1) will deal, and then read Team 1's question about the case. (The Moderator will not read aloud the entire case).
  8. Team 1 will then have two (2) minutes to confer, after which they may use up to ten (10) minutes to respond to the Moderator's question. More than one team member may contribute to the response, but only one team member may speak at a time.
  9. The opposing team (hereinafter Team 2) receives one minute to confer, and then may use up to five minutes to comment about Team 1's answer to the Moderator's question. More than one team member may contribute to the commentary, but only one team member may speak at a time.
  10. Team 1 receives one minute to confer and then may use up to five minutes to respond to Team 2's commentary. More than one team member may respond to the commentary, but only one team member may speak at a time.
  11. The judges then may pose questions to Team 1 on any aspect of the case presentation. Each judge is limited to one question and one follow up until all judges have had an opportunity to ask a question. If time remains after each judge has had an opportunity to ask a question, then judges may ask a team additional questions. Prior to the beginning of the 10 minute question session, judges are allowed one minute to confer. Moderators should remind teams to be aware of the time they use in conferring amongst themselves before responding to a question. Different team members may respond to the questions of different judges. Teams may huddle briefly to discuss their answers to the judges' questions. Moderators will give judges a five minute and a three minute warning.
  12. The judges will evaluate Team 1 and Team 2 on score sheet provided to them (see scoring rules below). **AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THE JUDGES WILL NOT ANNOUNCE TO THE TEAMS THE SCORES THEY HAVE GIVEN THEM.**

13. Team 1 and Team 2 will reverse roles for a second round with a different case.

14. At the close of the second round the Moderator will ask the judges to announce the teams' scores for the match (see scoring rules below).

15. The team with the greatest number of judges declaring them winner is the winner of the match. Any team that wins on two judges' score sheets wins the match. If a team wins on one judge's score sheet and ties on the other two they win the match. If neither team wins on more of the score sheets, then the match is deemed a tie (even if one team scores a greater number of total points).

#### RULES FOR ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

1. The moderator is in charge of the room. Should any problem arise that indicates unacceptable behavior (see below), the moderator should attempt to address it. Should that become impossible or if the issue is very serious, the designated disputes official should be called in and a time-out must begin, until the issue is resolved.
2. The person to handle disputes at the national competition will officially be known as "Disputes Official."
3. Examples of unacceptable behaviors include: a) Coaches communicating with students excessively while a match is in progress. Note that a simple smile or nod is not inappropriate. b) Coaches acting demonstrably to potentially distract the opposing team (e.g., rolling eyes or shaking head while the other team speaks). The degree of demonstrability should be taken into consideration. c) Judges berating students. d) Students (audience and team members) being loud during opposing team's presentation and discussion. e) Foul, graphic or insulting language by any/all parties. f) Any behavior that might be construed by a reasonable person as sexual harassment is unacceptable.

#### REGISTRATION FEE REFUND RULE

A full refund of the national competition registration fee is available up to one month prior to the competition. After that date, a full refund will be awarded only in the event that another team is available to fill the vacated spot.

#### TAPING RULE

At the national competition teams are allowed to tape any round, but (1) must secure permission from the other team prior to the round, and (2) must do so in a fashion that is not disruptive to any of the participants.

#### FEEDBACK

On the back of the Judge's score sheet is a place for judges to provide feedback to the teams. This is optional, and will be contingent upon time factors. Time permitting (for up to 5 minutes after a match) students may ask questions of the judges on their performance and for constructive criticism. Students are not permitted to argue with the judges about their scores or to berate them.

#### ODD NUMBER OF TEAMS

If it becomes the case that we have an odd number of teams, a bye round schedule will be employed. With an odd number of teams, one team each round will have a bye. This requires that there is a round for just those teams that have had byes (henceforth known as the "bye make-up round"). The bye make-up round will take place during the lunch break. Since there are an odd number of preliminary rounds, an additional team will be needed (henceforth known as the "additional team"). To the extent feasible, the organizers should attempt to allow teams to volunteer to serve as the additional team (i.e., the team that plays an extra match during the bye round).

The additional team will then be the team in that division of the remaining teams who (1) are not already scheduled to play all of the bye teams, and (2) are bringing the greatest number of team members. If there is no single team (of the remaining teams in the division) who is bringing the greatest number of team members, then a random process will be used to determine the additional team, from those teams tied for greatest number of team members.

## SCORING RULES

1. Judges shall evaluate the responses of teams solely in terms of the following criteria:

A. Clarity and Intelligibility - Was the presentation clear and systematic, and did the team answer the moderator's question? Regardless of whether or not you agree with the conclusion, did the team give a coherent argument in a clear and succinct manner?

B. Identification and Discussion of Central Ethical Dimensions: Did the team's presentation clearly identify and thoroughly discuss the central ethical dimensions of the case?

C. Deliberative Thoughtfulness: Did the team's presentation indicate both awareness and thoughtful consideration of different viewpoints, including especially those that would loom large in the reasoning of individuals who disagree with the team's position?

2. The judges will score each team as follows:

0-30 for a team's answer to the Moderator's question (30 best); in evaluating a team's answer the judges will give the team a score of 0-10 relative to each of the three evaluation criteria indicated above and total the sum.

0-10 for the opposing team's commentary (10 best).

0-10 for the response to the opposing team's commentary (10 best).

0-10 for the response to the judges' questions, by the team that answered the Moderator's question (10 best).

In evaluating a team's commentary, the other team's response to the commentary, and a team's response to the judges' questions the judges will take into account the three evaluation criteria indicated above, but give the teams an overall score, rather than a separate point score

relative to each of the criteria.

3. The top four teams in the competition will be determined in the following way.

Qualifying matches (three):

Teams will be ranked based on a) the number of wins, followed by b) the number of ties, followed by c) point differential. Thus, all teams with three wins will rank ahead of all teams with two wins. All teams with two wins will rank ahead of all teams with one win. Within rankings, a team with more ties ranks above a team with fewer ties. Finally, for teams with the same number of wins and ties, a team with a higher point differential would rank above a team with a lower point differential.

For example:

TEAM	WINS	TIES	POINTS	RANK
School R	3 wins	0 ties	12 point differential	1st
School M	3 wins	0 ties	10 point differential	2nd
School B	2 wins	1 tie	15 point differential	3rd
School S	2 wins	0 ties	-8 point differential	4th
School H	1 win	2 ties	-6 point differential	5th

Note, for example that School B has a greater point differential than School M, and School H has a lower negative point differential than School S. Nonetheless, M ranks ahead of B because it has more wins, and, likewise, S ranks ahead of H.

Point differentials: Point differentials are the margin of victory or loss. A point differential for each match is determined by taking the team's total points and subtracting the other team's total. Note that point differentials will be negative in the case of a loss. At the end of the morning competition the point differential for a team is simply the sum of the point differentials for that team in each of its three morning matches.

The four teams with the highest ranking based on the results of the qualifying matches will compete in two elimination matches (semi-final and final).

Ties at the end of the qualifying matches:

- a. If 2 teams have the same ranking, and if they played against each other during the three rounds of play, whoever won that competition will gain the higher ranking.
- b. The method in a) above will also apply to a 3 (or more) way tie in ranking, just in case all teams played each other and transitivity holds (e.g. A beat B, B beat C, but C did not beat A).
- c. In case numbers a) and b) do not determine a winner, then raw points will be used to determine a winner.
- d. Finally, if a-c above fail, an impartial random process will determine the final outcome between the teams. In case 2 teams are still tied, a coin toss will be used. If more than 2 teams still remain, the high card drawn from a standard deck of playing cards will decide. This process

will be repeated until the outcome is decided.

4. The winner of the Bioethics Bowl, among the top four teams, will be determined as follows:

Elimination matches: The top 4 teams will face each other in 2 elimination matches.

Judges will use the same numerical scoring guidelines as they did during the qualifying matches..

The winner of the 2017 National Bioethics Bowl will be the team that wins 2 matches in the elimination portion of the competition.

Ties during semifinal matches:

In case of a tie in a semifinal match:

- 1) the team with the most points in the match wins the tie-break, or else
- 2) if the two teams have faced each other in the qualifying matches, the winner of that match wins the tie-break, or else
- 3) the team with the most wins in the qualifying matches wins the tie-break, or else
- 4) the team with the most ties in the qualifying matches wins the tie-break, or else
- 5) the team with the highest point differential in the qualifying matches wins the tie-break, or else
- 6) the team with the highest total points in the qualifying matches wins the tie-break, or else
- 7) a coin toss decides the winner of the tie-break.

Ties during the Final Match,

- 1) the team with the most points in the match wins the tie-break, or else
- 2) the two finalists will be declared co-winners of the 2017 National Bioethics Bowl.