

FORMAT, PROCEDURAL RULES, AND SCORING RULES

OF THE

2023 BIOETHICS BOWL

FORMAT OF THIS COMPETITION

The 2023 Bioethics Bowl will take place on Saturday, April 15th on the campus of Northeastern University in Boston. It is being hosted by Northeastern University with support of the Ethics Institute at Northeastern University.

RULES OF THE 2023 BIOETHICS BOWL

PROCEDURAL RULES:

1. In a Bioethics Bowl match each team will be questioned by a moderator on a case. On January 16th, 2023 twelve cases were distributed to the competing teams. Each of the cases is 1 to 2 pages in length. The cases on which teams will be asked questions at the Bioethics Bowl will be taken from these twelve cases. The teams will not know in advance which of the cases they will be asked about at the Ethics Bowl or what the questions will be. Judges and moderators will also receive the twelve cases. Like the teams, they will receive copies of the cases, but not copies of the questions. The judges and moderators, like the teams, will not be informed in advance of the specific cases teams will be asked about at the ethics bowl.

2. Teams can be any size but only six (6) or fewer can be active participants at any time. Substitutions cannot be made once the initial six or fewer are seated and ready for action. Substitutions CANNOT be made once the case is announced. Team members must be undergraduates (see the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl regional rules for eligibility details, as we have adopted their rule set for this competition). 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 no longer being discussed. Once the chosen team members are seated at the beginning of the round, no changes to the team composition can be made for the duration of the entire round.

3. During competition books and notes will not be allowed, however, scrap paper to jot down thoughts is permissible. The question to which a team must respond along with the text of the case from which the question is taken will be made available to the teams during the round. Teams should wait to use the scratch paper until the case has been announced. Students are permitted to pass notes to one another at any point. At the halfway point in a match teams will be instructed by the moderator to clear notes taken during the first half of the match from the table, and placed out of sight of all participants.

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. As much as they can, teams should try to use timers in an unobtrusive a fashion (turning off beepers or turning down the volume when possible, not setting too many alarms, etc.). This is intended as a recommendation rather than a strict rule.

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. Moderators will indicate whether they typically use visual warnings only, verbal warnings only, or both, and then ask teams if they would prefer it done differently.

6. The end of time for each part of a round will be a “hard stop,” with moderator’s simply saying “that’s time” at the end of the time for a particular portion of a match. Teams will not be allowed to complete their sentence.

7. 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.

8. 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).

9. Team 1 will then have two minutes to confer, after which they may use up to ten 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. The judges then may ask questions to Team 1. 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 ten-minute question session, judges are allowed one minute to confer. Moderators should remind teams to be aware of the time they use by 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.

13. 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.**

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

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

16. 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).

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:

3-30 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.

1-10 for the opposing team's commentary (10 best).

1-10 for the response to the opposing team's commentary (10 best).

1-10 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 overall ranking of teams in the competition (prior to the final round) will be determined in the following way:

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	5 wins	0 ties	12 point differential	1st
School M	5 wins	0 ties	10 point differential	2nd
School B	4 wins	1 tie	15 point differential	3rd
School S	4 wins	0 ties	-8 point differential	4th
School H	3 wins	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.

4. The two teams with the highest ranking will advance to the final round.

5. The winner of the 2023 Bioethics Bowl will be the team that wins the final round.

6. Rules for breaking ties:

- a. If two teams have the same ranking then if they played against each other during the three rounds of play, whoever won that competition will win gain the higher ranking.
- b. The above method 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 rules a and b do not determine a higher ranking, then raw points will be used to determine the highest ranking.
- d. Finally, if a-c above fail, an impartial random process will determine the final ranking between the teams. Note that this only kicks in in cases where it is necessary (for example, if there are three bids to nationals and there is a tie between two teams for second place, then a tie-breaker becomes necessary). 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.
- e. In the event of a tie during the final round, the team with the most points wins the tie-break, or else the two finalists will be declared co-winners of the 2022 Bioethics Bowl.

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 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 one’s 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.

RULE REGARDING DISQUALIFIED TEAMS

If a team is found to have violated a rule that the competition organizer finds to merit disqualification from a match, even if that finding comes after the match is over, the team will be disqualified from the round.

Teams facing a team that is disqualified from a match will be awarded a win in that match, with a judge majority of 2-1, and a point differential of 0.

TAPING RULE

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. The organizers of the competition will be responsible for taping the final round.

SPONSOR RULE

Every team participating in the 2022 Bioethics Bowl must have a sponsor from their school who is either (1) a regular faculty member or (2) either an adjunct instructor or graduate student who is authorized by the school to sponsor a team. There is no requirement that that the sponsor travel with the team to competitions.

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.