

APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (IEB)

Regional Rules – 2010-11

Rules for School Eligibility:

A school may send no more than two teams to a regional bowl. There is no longer a distinction between linked and unlinked teams. A school may earn at most one bid to nationals in a given year. Teams at nationals must be composed entirely of eligible students (see the Rules for Student Eligibility), but need not be composed of students who participated in the regional competition in which the bid was earned.

Rule for Student Eligibility:

Members of a school's team must have been undergraduates at the time of the regional competition in which the school qualified for the national competition. Students who are not enrolled at the time of the national competition due to academic disciplinary reasons imposed by their school, such as suspension, expulsion, etc., are not eligible to compete at the national competition.

Rules for participating in multiple regional bowls:

A school may take part in more than one regional bowl. However, the school must notify the IEB Executive Board prior to ANY of the bowls which one it will use as a qualifier for the national bowl.

Rule on Conflicts of Interest:

- a) It is unacceptable for case writers to serve as coaches.
- b) It is unacceptable for coaches to serve as judges at a competition in which their institution is competing.
- c) It is unacceptable for current undergraduates to serve as judges at a competition in which their institution is competing.

Note:

Each of these conflict of interest rules is a hard rule as opposed to a best practice. As hard rule, for example, if a judge drops out or does not show up, the event is cancelled rather than breaking one of these rules. Bowls can avoid this by having a few extra judges committed to the event. Organizers should have a back-up plan (such as having a make-up round between the morning rounds and the semifinals, in which the teams that would have competed, but couldn't due to a lack of judges, have their scheduled match).

Qualifying Rules for teams to advance from regional bowls to the national bowl:

Thirty-two schools compete in the national bowl. Each regional bowl receives bids to the national bowl based on its proportion of the overall number of schools participating.

For the mechanics of bid allocation, see the appendix.

Dates:

Regional bowls must be held in time for teams to accept an invitation to the national bowl by December 15. Teams must confirm by this date or risk losing their space.

Rules variations in regional bowls:

Regional bowls are expected to use the national bowl's rules, guidelines, and scoring rubric, with the following exceptions:

- a. Regional bowls are not required to conduct a straight elimination match of the top scoring teams in the three morning matches, as provided for under the national rules. However, regional bowls must adopt scoring rules that enable them to rank teams from top to bottom.
- b. Under certain conditions other alterations will be allowed, such as the following:
- c. Minor adjustments to timing and other rules are allowed without prior approval, but require notification to the IEB Executive Board, and, where appropriate, post-bowl reports about the effects of these adjustments. Pre-approved variations include:
 1. initial presentations may run from 7 to 12 minutes.
 2. commentary on initial presentations may run from 5 to 8 minutes.
 3. ratio of presenting team to opposing team scores may not exceed 5:1.
 4. judges' Q&A need not be restricted to one Q and one follow-up;
 5. judges' Q&A may be expanded from 10 to 15 minutes.
 6. response to commentary may be shortened in favor of lengthening the judges' Q&A period.
 7. rules regarding the number of members of a team that may speak during any particular part of the round may be changed without prior consent.
 8. regional bowls may allow one minute for initial conferral, and may have any policy they deem appropriate on when teams may use scratch paper, as long as notes are not in from the outside.
 9. the winner of a match may be determined by which team received higher scores from the majority of judges rather than the highest points.
Experiments involving more significant changes require approval from the IEB Executive Board and require reports about the effects of these changes. The regional bowls can serve as test beds for useful experimentation, with successful experiments ultimately being adopted by the national bowl (and therefore the other regional bowls). However, changes that alter the essential nature of the event as an academic competition will be turned down by the executive board.

Appendix: Mechanics for bid allocation:

Bids to nationals are calculated as follows. First, we calculate the total number of schools participating, divide that number by the number of available bids to nationals (32), to glean the number of schools per bid. The number of schools attempting to qualify for nationals at each region would be divided by this number (the number of schools per bid) and rounded to the nearest integer. This produces the number of bids each region would get, with the caveat that each region is guaranteed at least one bid. If, due to rounding, there are bids left over, then they go to the region or regions that will best preserve the lowest range between greatest and lowest chances of earning a bid. In the event that more than one region fits this description, then the one with the lowest chance of advancing gets the bid. If, due to rounding, there is a shortage of bids (i.e., the procedure awards a total in excess of the number of available bids), then they are taken from the regions that will best preserve the lowest range between greatest and lowest chances of earning a bid. In the event that more than one region fits this description, then the one with the highest chance of advancing loses the bid. Ties will be broken by counting the number of schools involved (the higher the better), then total number of teams (the higher the better), then by coin toss. One week prior to the first regional competition each region would report to the APPE IEB Subcommittee Chair the number of schools and number of teams attempting to qualify for nationals at their competition. In the event that a region does not report the number of schools and teams participating by this date, they would be awarded bids based on the best conservative estimate of the APPE IEB Subcommittee Chair. Should a team be unable to attend nationals, its space will go to the next highest ranked team from that bowl. Each regional bowl will use scoring rules that make it possible to rank teams from top to bottom.