

Association for Practical and Professional Ethics  
Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl®

# Regional FAQs 2025



[appeieb.org](http://appeieb.org)

# Table of Contents

**Note:** *For the Procedural and Scoring Rules for the Regional competitions, please see the Rules for the 2025 APPE IEB® National Competition.*

<b>Frequently Asked Questions.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Governance and Operational Guidelines for Regional Ethics Bowl Competitions.....	3
Eligibility and Participation Rules for Regional and National Ethics Bowl Competitions.....	4
Bid Allocation Process for the APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl.....	5
Role and Responsibilities of Regional Representatives to the IEB Board.....	5
Permitted Rule Variations and Experimental Practices in Regional Ethics Bowl Competitions.....	6
Guidelines and Protocols for Virtual Regional Ethics Bowl Competitions .....	6

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Governance and Operational Guidelines for Regional Ethics Bowl Competitions

**Q: Who is responsible for organizing regional bowls?**

**A:** Regional organizers are solely responsible for organizing and conducting their bowls, provided they conform to APPE IEB® rules.

**Q: Can regions set their own cap for the number of participating teams?**

**A:** Yes, regions decide their own cap and must communicate it to the Ethics Bowl Chair.

**Q: What competition information must be shared before the event?**

**A:** All scoring rules, ranking methods, and how winners are determined must be explicitly shared before the competition starts.

**Q: Can coaches or undergraduates serve as judges?**

**A:** They can, but they cannot judge a match in which their own school is participating.

**Q: When must regional competitions take place?**

**A:** They must be held in time for teams to accept national bids by December 15.

**Q: When must teams confirm their national bowl spot?**

**A:** Teams must confirm their acceptance of a national bowl bid by December 15, or they risk losing their space.

**Q: When does regional registration open each year?**

**A:** Registration opens annually on the Wednesday after Labor Day.

**Q: When are regional cases released each year?**

**A:** Cases are released annually on the Wednesday after Labor Day.

**Q: How long does the initial registration period last?**

**A:** The initial registration period lasts for three (3) weeks.

**Q: How many teams can a school register during the initial registration period?**

**A:** Each school may register up to two teams (as determined by their regional organizer) in their qualifying region during the initial registration period.

**Q: What happens if a school wants to register more than two teams?**

**A:** Additional teams may be added to a regional waitlist, and after the initial three-week period, waitlisted teams may be invited to register if space is available and in accordance with regional waitlist rules.

**Q: When does all regional registration close?**

**A:** Regional registration closes 10 days prior to the date of the first regional competition of the season.

**Q: How are appeals handled?**

**A:** Errors must be reported immediately if during the competition or within one week after if discovered later.

## Eligibility and Participation Rules for Regional and National Ethics Bowl Competitions

**Q: How many teams can a school send to a regional?**

**A:** A school may send more than one team **only if both conditions are met:** (1) the regional competition organizers approve, and (2) sending additional teams does not deny participation to schools with fewer teams.

**Q: Can a school earn more than one bid to nationals?**

**A:** No, a school may earn at most one bid per year.

**Q: Who is eligible to compete at nationals?**

**A:** Undergraduate students enrolled at the time of the regional competition who have never been in a graduate program (except joint BA/MA).

**Q: Can students who have graduated compete?**

**A:** Not unless they graduated within the past year and are now enrolled in another bachelor's program.

**Q: Can teams compete in more than one regional?**

**A:** Yes, but they must declare in advance which regional counts for qualifying.

**Q: How does the Two-Year Bowl work?**

**A:** Teams can attempt to qualify at the Two-Year Bowl and one other regional. If the winner already has a bid, it goes to the next highest-ranked team.

**Q: What happens if a team is disqualified?**

**A:** The opposing team is awarded a win with a 2-1 judge majority and a point differential of 0.

**Q: Who is responsible for the team's eligibility and registration?**

**A:** The official 'sponsor' listed on the registration.

**Q: Is there a fee for large teams?**

**A:** Yes, \$15 per person beyond eight members.

## Bid Allocation Process for the APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl

**Q: How many bids are awarded to nationals?**

**A:** 35, with a 36th reserved for special circumstances.

**Q: How is the schools-per-bid ratio calculated?**

**A:** Total schools divided by 35 gives the ratio.

**Q: How are regional bid counts determined?**

**A:** Number of schools in the region divided by the schools-per-bid ratio, rounded to the nearest whole number (minimum of one bid).

**Q: What happens if rounding results in too few or too many bids?**

**A:** Remaining bids are allocated (or removed) to minimize disparities in qualifying chances.

**Q: How are ties resolved?**

**A:** Higher number of participating schools or a coin toss.

**Q: What must regions report before competitions?**

**A:** Number of schools and teams, at least 10 days before the first regional.

**Q: What if a team vacates its bid?**

**A:** It is offered to the next highest-ranked team from that region.

## Role and Responsibilities of Regional Representatives to the IEB Board

**Q: What is the role of a Regional Representative?**

**A:** Serve as voting members of the IEB Board and liaison between the region and the IEB.

**Q: Do they have to host the regional?**

**A:** No, they oversee but do not have to host the bowl.

**Q: How long is a term?**

**A:** Three years, with unlimited re-election.

**Q: When are elections held?**

**A:** Between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31 of the final year of the term.

**Q: When does the new representative take over?**

**A:** At the next IEB Breakfast during the APPE conference.

**Q: Who is eligible to vote?**

**A:** Any school that has competed in the region at least once during the representative's current term.

## Permitted Rule Variations and Experimental Practices in Regional Ethics Bowl Competitions

**Q: Must regions use national rules?**

**A:** Yes, except for specified permitted variations.

**Q: Do regional bowls have to follow the national elimination structure?**

**A:** No, but they must have a clear ranking system.

**Q: What minor variations are allowed without approval?**

**A:** Adjustments to timing, team size, conferral periods, judges' Q&A, point allocation, and more (as listed in the guidelines).

**Q: Can regions experiment with major changes?**

**A:** Yes, but only with IEB Council approval and a report on results.

**Q: What kinds of changes are prohibited?**

**A:** Any that alter the essential nature of the competition as an academic event.

## Guidelines and Protocols for Virtual Regional Ethics Bowl Competitions

**Q: Can teams compete from one location?**

**A:** Yes, or from separate locations, depending on policy and preference.

**Q: Are headsets allowed?**

**A:** Yes, in both shared and separate setups.

**Q: What is prohibited during virtual matches?**

**A:** Communication with outsiders, use of phones or pre-written notes, and coaches speaking to teams during the match.

**Q: What are teams allowed to do during a virtual match?**

**A:** Use private chat to pass notes and use scratch paper.

**Q: Are webcams required?**

**A:** Yes, unless bandwidth issues are reported and approved by the moderator.

**Q: What happens if technical issues disrupt the match?**

**A:** The moderator may suspend or reschedule the match.

**Q: What is the role of the back-up judge?**

**A:** Only scores if replacing a regular judge; otherwise inactive.

**Q: Are moderators required to have training?**

**A:** Yes, including training on the virtual platform.

**Q: How should regions prioritize teams for virtual competitions?**

**A:** Priority is given to local teams, first teams from a school, and those qualifying for nationals