



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

1. 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 the bottom.

All teams registered for the Ohio River Valley (ORV) Regional will compete in four matches. The winner of each match will be the team with the highest total score. If both teams finish with the same number of points, the match will be recorded as a draw.

Teams will then be ranked based on the cumulative total of judges' raw scores across all four matches, from the highest total to the lowest. In the event of ties among the top-ranked teams, a "tie rule" will be applied. Under this rule, cumulative scores will be recalculated by removing the single highest and single lowest score in each category— presentation, commentary, response to commentary, and response to judges— across all four rounds.

The top two ranked teams will then compete head-to-head in a 8th and final match to determine the ORV Regional Champion. If the ORV Regional is awarded only one bid to Nationals, that bid will go to the Regional Champion. If the ORV Regional is awarded two (2) bids, the Champion and Runner-up will receive them. If three or more bids are awarded, the additional bids will be allocated to the next highest-ranked teams, beginning with the third-ranked team.

Potential Change to Championship Round format:

Odd Number of Teams (Bye Make-Up Round):

- If APPE registration closes with an odd number of teams, the Championship Round will be replaced by a Bye Make-Up Round.
- The four teams that received a bye during the preliminary rounds will be paired into two additional matches so that each completes its fourth match.
- After all teams have completed four matches, the team with the highest overall score will be named Regional Champion and awarded the championship trophy. (Standard tiebreakers apply, if needed.)

Even Number of Teams (Same-School Top Two)

- If registration closes with an even number of teams and, after the four preliminary rounds, the two highest-scoring teams are from the same school, the Championship Round will not be held. That school will be awarded the championship trophy.

2. 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:

- a. The maximum amount of team members that may be seated for a match may be adjusted (especially as the ability to fit people at tables may vary by region).

ORV Regional will allow up to six (6) students at a table during a match.

- b. The APPE IEB® National Competition Rules note that the end of time for any portion of the match will be a “hard stop”, wherein the moderator will simply say “that’s time” when time expires. Regional bowls may determine for themselves how to deal with the expiration of time during a round (for example, allowing a team to finish a sentence).

The ORV Regional will align with APPE IEB® National Competition Rules and instruct moderators to invoke a “hard stop” and simply say “that’s time” when time expires.

- c. Initial presentations may run from 7 to 12 minutes.

The ORV Regional will allow ten (10) minutes for the initial/primary presentations. Please review the [Match Guide](#) for complete timing of full match.

- d. Commentary on initial presentations may run from 5 to 8 minutes.

The ORV Regional will allow 8ve (5) minutes for the commentary on initial/primary presentations. Please review the [Match Guide](#) for complete timing of full match.

- e. Ratio of presenting team to opposing team scores may not exceed 5:1.

Not Applicable

- f. Judges' Q&A may be expanded from 10 up to 15 minutes.

The ORV Regional will allow ten (10) minutes for the Judges' Q&A. Please review the [Match Guide](#) for complete timing of full match.

- g. Response to commentary may be shortened in favor of lengthening the judges' Q&A period.

The ORV Regional will allow 8ve (5) minutes for response to commentary on initial/primary presentations. Please review the [Match Guide](#) for complete timing of full match.

- h. 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.

The ORV Regional will not dictate the number of members of a team that may speak during any particular part of the round. However, we will enforce that only one person may speak at a time.

- i. 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.

The ORV Regional will allow two (2) minutes for the initial conferral period prior to the primary presentation. All subsequent conferral periods during the match will be limited to one (1) minute. Only members of the conferring team may speak during these intervals.

The ORV will provide blank scratch paper, which may be used by teams for note-taking during primary presentations and conferral periods. No outside notes or materials are permitted.

- j. The winner of a match may be determined by which team received the highest points rather than the majority of judges.

The winner of each match will be the team with the highest total score, with a maximum of 195 points possible per match. If both teams finish with the same number of points, the match will be recorded as a draw.

- k. Adding a section to their score sheets where judges may deduct points for things such as personal attacks on the opposing team, taking hostile tones, etc.

The Ohio River Regional will add an additional section to our score sheets to include 1-5 Spirit points acknowledge teams that engage in respectful dialogue and penalize teams that engage in combative debate such as personal attacks on the opposing team, taking hostile tones, etc.

- l. Shifting points from initial presentation and adding points to response to Judges' question or counter-rebuttal.

The ORV will not shift points on the scoresheet.

- m. Rules regarding what to do in the event that one or more teams fails to show up is the discretion of the regional organizer.

Teams that fail to show up for their designated matches will forfeit the match. This will apply in the case any team withdraws less than seven (7) days before the event begins. The opposing team will automatically be designated the winner.

Final ranking for the day will be adjusted for any team who wins due to a no-show in the following way: the average score earned for the other three (3) rounds will be averaged and be deemed the score for the no-show match.