

Association for Practical and Professional Ethics
Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl®

Regional FAQs



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.

Frequently Asked Questions.....	3
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