2013 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS BOWL
RULES, PROCEDURE, and FORMAT

APRIL 19-20, 2013
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Hosted by the Parr Center for Ethics

PARR CENTER
for ETHICS
THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL
Rules

The cases for the 2013 National High School Ethics Bowl will be released on Wednesday, February 20, 2013. Each case will be paired with study questions to aid teams in preparation.

There are no limits to the resources that may be used in researching the questions prior to the competition. Students are encouraged to consult all resources, including teachers, to understand the full breadth of the cases, determine their positions, and make the strongest possible presentation.

During competition, scratch paper will be provided for the competitors to make notes during the cases, but outside notes and materials are prohibited. All notes and materials will be collected at the end of each case.

When one team is allowed to confer or speak, the other team, judges, and audience members must remain silent, although writing and passing notes is permitted (for example, when Team A is given their case and question, they are allowed to confer for two minutes and then present for seven minutes. During those nine minutes, Team B is permitted only to write notes, but must remain silent.)

The moderator controls the room during matches and should address any unacceptable behavior including, but not limited to:

- Coaches, parents, or audience members communicating with (verbally or non-verbally), or demonstrably reacting to, competitors during a match.
- Judges showing hostility or asking inappropriate questions to competitors. Inappropriate questions include, but are not limited to, any that highlight a competitor’s race, religion, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, etc. Judges should direct their questions to teams, not to individuals.
- Anyone in the competition room who intentionally makes noise while one of the teams, judges, or moderator has the floor.
- Foul, insulting, or excessively graphic language by anyone in the competition room.

Competition procedure

1) Each team is allowed up to five members competing in any one match. The team members must be selected and seated at the table before the cases and questions for that match are announced. Each match will begin with a coin toss. The team that wins the coin toss may elect to present first (to be the team designated as Team A) or to have the other team present first (and thus to be the team designated as Team B).

2) Copies of the first case and question will be distributed to the competitors and to the judges. Neither the judges nor the team members will have advance knowledge of which case will be presented or which question will be asked. The moderators will then read the question.

3) Team A will then have up to two minutes to confer, after which any member(s) of Team A may speak for up to 7 minutes (total) in response to the moderator’s question, based on the team’s research and critical analysis. This is known as the presentation period.
4) Next Team B will have up to one minute to confer, after which Team B may speak for up to 3 minutes in response to Team A’s presentation and to the moderator’s question. This is known as the commentary period.

5) Team A will then have up to one minute to confer, followed by 3 minutes to respond to Team B’s challenge. This is known as the response period.

6) The judges will then begin their 10 minute question and answer session with Team A. Before asking questions, the judges may confer briefly (no more than 30 seconds). Each judge should have time for one question. Judges may ask more questions if time permits.

7) More than one team member may respond to a given judge’s question. Team members are not expected to confer for longer than 20 to 30 seconds after a question has been asked.

8) Judges shall evaluate the responses of team solely in terms of the following criteria:

   a. **Clarity and Intelligibility**: Was the presentation clear and systematic? 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 while avoiding irrelevancies?

   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?

9) The judges will score each team as follows:

   a. 0-30 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 in Rule 8. (Team A)

   b. 0-5 for the opposing team’s commentary (5 best) (Team B)

   c. 0-5 for the response to the opposing team’s commentary (5 best) (Team A), and

   d. 0-20 for the response to the judge’s questions, by the team that answered the Moderator’s question (20 best) (Team A)

   The judges are not permitted to discuss their scoring decisions with each other; each judge is to rely on his or her own private judgment.

10) After the judges have made their scoring decisions, the moderator will give a second case and question to the same two teams.

11) The competition will proceed as above, with Team B presenting in the second half, Team A offering commentary, Team B responding, and then Team B participating in the judges’ question and answer session. Thus, in each match, each team will have the opportunity to present one case and to respond to the other team’s presentation of another case, for a total of 60 points possible from each of the three judges. (180 points total)

12) At the end of the match, the moderator will compile and announce the scores for each team and the winner of the match.
13) The winner of the match will be the team with the greater number of total points. Moderators will validate scores with the teams and judges and pass score sheets to the competition coordinator for tallying with scores from the other matches.

**Competition format**

The competition will begin on the afternoon of Friday, April 19, 2013 with registration and a plenary session required for all participating teams (students and coaches).

Each team will compete in two seeding matches following the plenary session on Friday afternoon. Each team will compete in two more seeding matches on the morning of Saturday, April 20, 2013 (teams assigned by random draw).

At the end of the fourth round, the teams will be ranked by the number of wins (0-4). When two or more teams have the same number of wins, the following tiebreakers will be exercised, in this order:

- **Lowest number of losses** (so a team that ties, 2 wins, 1 tie, and 1 loss will rank higher than a team with 2 wins and 2 losses)
- **Greatest point differential** over all four matches (If two teams have 3 wins and 1 loss, and Team A has a total point differential of +18 [winning two matches by 10, winning one match by 6, and losing one match by 8] while Team B has a point differential of +14 [winning one match by 3, winning one match by 7, winning one match by 5, and losing one match by 1], Team A will be ranked higher in the standings).
- **Highest point total** over all four matches (out of 720 points total). (If two teams have 3 wins and 1 loss, and both have total point differential of +18, but Team A has 505 total points for four matches and Team B has 496 points, Team A will be ranked higher in the standings).
- **Coin toss**

The top four ranked teams after the four seeding matches will advance to the semifinals. The four semifinal teams will be announced after lunch.

The rules and procedure for the semifinals and finals will be identical to the other matches. The two winning teams from semifinal matches will advance to the final match. The winning team will be the National High School Ethics Bowl Grand Champion.

A closing ceremony will immediately follow the final match. Awards will be given for outstanding team and individual performance in various categories.