



## NHSEB Odd Number of Teams Guidelines

An ethics bowl match is formatted for an even number of teams. A situation may occur where a team cannot attend the competition or fails to show up, leaving an odd number of teams. In partnership with Associate for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE), below are successful options for when an odd number of teams occur in a competition.

If you know ahead of the competition there will be an odd number of teams, be transparent with coaches about the need for flexibility and possibility changing team arrangements or competition format. If a team fails to show up the morning of the competition, notify coaches ASAP about any new procedures and/or arrangements.

### **Combining or Splitting Teams**

Review the current field of teams competing at the Regional. If a school has one large team (seven students), ask the coach to split the team to form two teams. If a school has two small teams, (three or four students per team) ask the coach to combine to make one team. This is the simplest option, as it doesn't require drastic changes to the competition schedule or scoring method.

### **Bye Round or Round-Robin**

If an odd number of teams is unavoidable, the use of a bye round also known as round-robin is the next best option. One team will get a bye in each preliminary round, as it is impossible for all teams to play in the same round. Overall, teams will compete in the same number of preliminary rounds as well as sit out for the same number of rounds during the competition. After the preliminary rounds are completed a "bye round" will proceed followed by semifinals and finals.

For example:

Round 1:

Team 1 vs. Team 2

Team 3 vs. Team 4

Team 5 (bye)

Round 2:

Team 1 vs Team 5

Team 2 vs. Team 3

Team 4 (bye)

Round 3:

Team 1 vs. Team 4

Team 2 vs. Team 5

Team 3 (bye)

Round 4:

Team 1 vs. Team 3

Team 5 vs. Team 4

Team 2 (bye)

Bye Round:

Team 5 vs. Team 3

Team 2 vs. Team 4

(Team 1 sits out)

If there is an odd number of preliminary rounds, an additional team will be needed for the bye round. One option is to randomly select a team to compete as a placeholder. This team's results are not counted in the scorekeeping, but the team they compete against results are official. Another option is to allow teams to volunteer as a placeholder. If more than one additional team is needed, the same process will be employed to determine the second or third additional teams.

For example:

Round 1:

Team 1 vs. Team 2

Team 3 vs. Team 4

Team 5 (bye)

Round 2:

Team 1 vs. Team 5

Team 2 vs. Team 3

Team 4 (bye)

Round 3:

Teams 1 vs. Team 4

Team 2 vs. Team 5

Team 3 (bye)

Bye Round:

Team 5 vs Team 4

Team 3 vs. (Random Team)

Semifinals

Finals

### **Create an Alternative Team**

The alternative team approach creates a new team from extra or alternate members from schools with multiple teams in the competition. For this option to be successful, teams need to have more than 5 members and be willing to forgo contribution from the selected students. Students should also feel comfortable forming a team with students unfamiliar to them. Once an alternative team is created, this team will be integrated into the schedule so every team will have a match. Similar to the “placeholder team” in a bye round, the alternative team’s scores do not officially count in scorekeeping; ignore this team’s scores. For example, if the alternative team ranks second after the preliminary rounds, teams in first, third, fourth, and fifth place would move onto the quarterfinals or semifinals. The alternative team cannot compete at the Nationals.