

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO ORGANIZING A REGIONAL ETHICS BOWL COMPETITION

http://nhseb.unc.edu | ethicsbowl@unc.edu | #NHSEB

What is the National High School Ethics Bowl?

The National High School Ethics Bowl (NHSEB) promotes respectful, supportive, and rigorous discussion of ethics among high school students nationwide. The NHSEB fosters constructive dialogue and furthers the next generation's ability to make sound ethical decisions.

Each Fall, the NHSEB releases a set of cases covering a broad range of issues, which then serve as the focus for the year. Teams meet together regularly with a coach to research the cases, to discuss the issues they raise, and to identify clearly how they think those issues should be addressed. The competitions themselves reward students for the depth of their thought, their ability to think analytically about complex issues, and the respect they show to the diverse perspectives of their peers.

The Parr Center for Ethics, located at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is home and headquarters of he NHSEB, overseeing Regional Competitions and hosting the National Competition each April.



What is an Ethics Bowl?

An ethics bowl is a competitive yet collaborative event in which students discuss real life ethical issues. In each round of competition, teams take turns analyzing ethical cases and responding to questions and comments from the other team and a panel of judges. An ethics bowl differs from a debate competition in that students are not assigned opposing views; rather, they defend whichever position they think is correct, provide each other with constructive criticism, and win by demonstrating that they have thought rigorously and systematically about the cases and engaged respectfully and supportively with all participants. Data from NHSEB surveys shows that this event teaches and promotes ethical awareness, critical thinking, civil discourse, civic engagement, and an appreciation for multiple points of view.

NHSEB goal is to do more than teach students how to think through ethical issues: It is to teach students how to think through ethical issues *together*, as fellow citizens in a complex moral and political community.



What is a team and how are teams scored in an ethics bowl?

A team must be composed of at least three high school students enrolled in the same school. Teams are capped at seven students, but only five students can be seated on a team in any round.

Teams are assessed by a panel of three judges. The judges will evaluate each team using a score sheet and rubric. There are five main scoring areas:

- Presentation (15 points)
- Commentary (10 points)
- Response (10 points)
- Response to Judges' Questions (20 points)
- Respectful Dialoge (5 points)

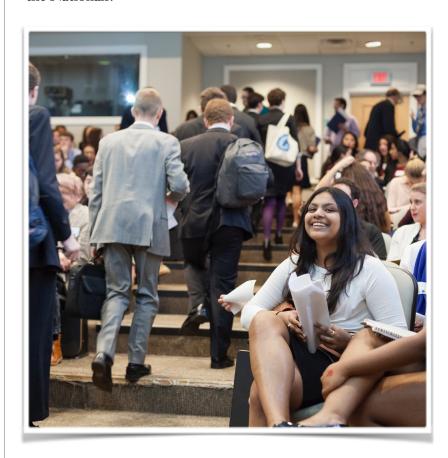
Teams can receive a maximum of 60 points per judge. Using the rubric, judges give team points on the basis of how perceptive, articulate, and thoughtful they are in addressing the ethical cases under consideration.

Regional Competitions

Regional high school ethics bowl competitions also known as "regionals" or "regional bowls" are run under the auspices of the NHSEB and found across North America. Teams are required to participate in a Regional closest to their high school's geographical area. Regionals follow the NHSEB Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines. Each regional competition is recognized by the NHSEB as Large or Small competitions.

Large Regionals are bowls with the most number of competing schools in the regional field. This number can vary from approximately 12 schools to 26 schools. The winning school of a Large Regional will automatically advance to the Nationals.

Small Regionals are bowls with the lowest number of competing schools in the regional field. Small Regionals usually consist between 4 to 12 schools. The winning school of a Small Regional will compete in a Virtual Playoff against the winner of another Small Regional. The winner of the Virtual Playoff will advance to the Nationals.



Who organizes a Regional Competition?

Organizing a regional competition provides an opportunity for high school students to think analytically about complex issues. NHSEB understands that people who are interested in organizing a regional competition may have other full-time jobs and commitments.

The NHSEB prefers partnering with a Philosophy Department, Ethics Center, and or other Humanities Departments to host and organize regional competitions. A university affiliation will provide students with a quality academic experience and sustainable competition.

Philosophy faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students can provide coaching assistance to educate teams about ethical theory and develop effective lines of reasoning.

Faculty members and graduate students across a campus can serve as judges and moderators for the competition as well as surrounding community members.

Lastly, a university is an ideal setting to host a regional competition.

If a high school teacher is interested in starting a competition, the NHSEB will help create a partnership with a a local university.

National High School Ethics Bowl Season

The NHSEB season begins early September with the release of the Regional ethics case set and concludes in early February. Regional organizers decide when it is best to host their regional competition within that season's time frame. NHSEB advises organizers to provide teams with at least two months of preparation time. When scheduling a competition please be aware of other high school academic events:

- ACT
- SAT
- Speech and Debate tournaments
- Winter Break, No School
- Exam Days

When the NHSEB season concludes, there is a two week period for Virtual Bowl Playoffs. The Virtual Bowl Playoffs are organized by the Parr Center for Ethics in communication with winning teams from small regionals. The Playoff will consist of a single match between two teams and the winner advances to he Nationals. After all Virtual Bowl Playoffs are completed, the NHSEB releases the National case set. Teams have another two months to analyze and prepare in anticipation for the National competition held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill each April.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

What is an Ethics Bowl?	I
Regional Competitions	2
National High School Ethics Bowl Season	3
High School Ethics Bowl Format	6
How Does an Ethics Bowl Match Proceed?	7
Tiebreakers and Team Ranking	8
Who Participates in the Competition?	9
Do Students Need to Use Ethical Theories?	10
Recruiting High Schools	10
Direct Contact	IO
Creating Affiliations and Partnerships	II
Community Involvement and Publicity	II
Recruiting Judges and Volunteers	II
Approaches to Recruiting Volunteers	II
Who Can Serve as a Judge and Moderator?	12
Judge and Moderator Training	12
Competition Planning and Logistics	13
Registration Fees & Forms	13
Website & Social Media	14
Venue	14
Catering	14
Planning Schedule: Month-to-Month	15
Selecting Case Matches & Moderator Questions	17
Randomizing & Matching Teams per Round	17

If an Odd Number of Teams Occur	18	
Packets and Folders	20	
Agenda and Program	20	
Awards and Memorabilia	21	
Scorekeeping	22	
If an Error Occurs While Scorekeeping	23	
Biased or Unfair Judges	23	
After the Competition	24	
Thank you Emails	24	
Post-event Press Release	25	
Regional Competition Final Report for NHSEB	26	
Provide Scoresheets and Final Ranking to Teams	26	
Inform Winning Team on their Next Steps	26	
Budget and Fundraising	26	
Frequently Asked Questions	28	
Appendices	32	
Appendix A, NHSEB Logo	32	
Appendix B, Packets and Materials Check List	33	
Appendix C, Sample Press Release	34	
Appendix D, Sample Spirit of the Ethics Bowl Award Ballot	35	
Appendix E, Sample Invitation to Participate: Teachers	36	
Appendix F, Sample Invitation to Participate: Volunteers	37	
Appendix G, Sample Invitation to Participate: Previous Judge	es	38
Appendix H, Sample Conformation Letter to Judges	39	
Appendix I, Sample High School Registration Form	41	
Appendix I, Sample Competition Schedule	42	
Appendix J, Sample Sponsorship Levels	43	

High School Ethics Bowl Format

To understand how to organize a regional competition, organizers need to be familiar with the NHSEB Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines. The NHSEB Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines document is updated each season and can be found on the NHSEB website. Regional organizers are strongly encouraged to use this document when hosting a competition, but the NHSEB understand that each competition is uniquely situated. There is flexibility within the standard procedures. Before recruiting high schools, it is important to understand the structure and format of a high school ethics bowl.

A competition is an all-day event held on either a Saturday or Sunday. The entire event can last between 8 to 10 hours. The length of the event depends on a variety of factors:

- Number of Schools
- Number of Teams
- Number of Preliminary Rounds
- Breakfast, Lunch
- Plenary Session, Awards Ceremony
- Training Judges' and Moderators'
- Providing extracurricular activities

 (a campus tour, enrichment event, a speaker, etc.)
- Unforeseen circumstances



A high school ethics bowl competition is divided into rounds: preliminary rounds, quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals. Each round is typically scheduled for 1 hour and 15 minutes. It is important when developing an event schedule to provide a time buffer (about 10 or 15 minutes) in-between rounds. Some rounds may go over time due to unforeseen circumstances. During a round, several matches will occur at the same time. A match features two teams meeting face-to-face. For a regional competition, an organizer will decide how many preliminary rounds to include. NHSEB recommends 3 or 4 preliminary rounds. Students intensely work for many months analyzing the various ethical dimension in each case study. Providing less than 3 preliminary rounds is unfair to the students. Regional organizers will also decide if their competition will include a quarterfinals and/or semifinals. Lastly, all competitions will have a finals. Example formats: 4 preliminary rounds, semifinals, and finals OR 3 preliminary rounds, quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals.

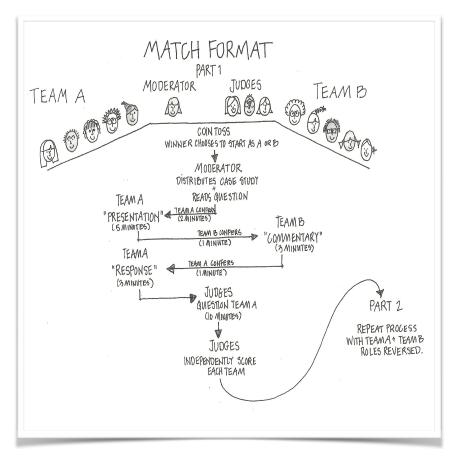
It is important to keep in mind that during the rounds, a scorekeeper is tracking, double checking, and tallying the scores from each team from the previous rounds.

How Does an Ethics Bowl Match Proceed?

A match will begin with a coin toss. The team that wins the coin toss may elect to present first (designated as Team A) or to have the other team present first (in this situation, the winner of the coin toss is then designated as Team B).

To open the first half of the match, copies of the first case and question will be distributed to the judges and teams. The moderator will then read the question. Neither judges nor the teams will know in advance which case will be presented or which question will be asked.

Team A will then have up to two minutes to confer, after which any member(s) of Team A may speak for up to five 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. Team A must address and answer the moderator's question during the Presentation period.



Created by A2Ethics

Next Team B will have up to one minute to confer, after which Team B may speak for up to three minutes in response to Team A's presentation. This is known as the Commentary period.

Team A will then have up to one minute to confer, followed by three minutes to respond to Team B's challenge. This is known as the Response period.

The judges will then begin their ten-minute question-and-answer session with Team A. Before asking questions, the judges may confer briefly. Each judge should have time for at least one question, and may ask more questions if time permits.

More than one team member may respond to a given judge's question. Teams should not confer for longer than 20 to 30 seconds after a question has been asked. Judges then evaluate the Presentation, Response, and Responses to Judges' Questions by Team A and the Commentary by Team B, and score the teams based on the judges' guidelines.

After the judges have made their scoring decisions, the moderator will read the second case and question to the same two teams, beginning the second half of the match.

The event 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.

Moderators will validate scores with the judges and tabulate, based on the scores, which team wins each judge's vote. The winner of the match will be the team with the highest number of votes (out of three totals). At the end of the match, the moderator will ask all the judges to hold up their match tally sheets and announce their votes. Next, the moderator will name the winning team (or announce a tie) and the number of judges' votes for that team. Moderators will then pass score sheets to a room staffer who will return all materials to the Bowl headquarters for compilation with scores from other matches.

Tiebreakers and Team Ranking

Remember the winner of a match will be the team with the highest number of votes (out of three totals). For example:

```
Judge 1: Team A 48, Team B 43 (1 vote for Team A)
Judge 2: Team A 45, Team B 44 (1 vote for Team A)
Judge 3: Team A 39, Team B 49 (1 vote for Team B)
```

Here, Team A is the winner of the match with two judges' votes despite the fact that Team B had a higher overall point total.

If a judge scores both teams equally, a tie, both teams are awarded 1/2 of that judge's vote. A match can end in a tie—if all three judges score the match a tie, or one judge votes for Team A, one for Team B, and one scores a tie. Point differential is not a factor in determining the winner of an individual match although it is a criterion that is used as a tiebreaker when ranking teams at the end of the seeding rounds.

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 has 2 wins, 1 tie, and 1 loss will rank higher than a team with 2 wins and 2 losses)
- **Highest number of judge votes** (over the course of four rounds, a team has the opportunity to win the votes of 12 judges. If two teams finish with 4 wins, but one team has 11 judge votes and the other has 10, the team with 11 votes is ranked higher)
- Greatest point differential over all four matches (If two teams have 3 wins and 1 loss and 9 judge votes, and Team A has a total point differential of +30 [winning two matches by 12, winning one match by 10, and losing one match by 4] while Team B has a point differential of +28 [winning one match by 11, winning two matches by 9, and losing one match by 1], Team A will be ranked higher in the standings).

- Highest point total over all four matches.
- · Coin toss

Who Participates in the Competition?

Regional Competitions need the following list of participants:

- **Regional Organizer** is a person or group of people who coordinate all logistics in order to successfully run and host a regional competition. An organizer is the main contact for a competition in a particular area. This person ensures the competition follows the mission of the NHSEB.
- Moderators "run the room." A Moderator keeps time and moves the match through its various components while ensuring that all participants and spectators comply with NHSEB rules.



- **Judges** gauge a team's breadth and depth of thought as applied to a specific ethics case. Each match, is evaluated by a panel of three judges. A judge should not be a coach or parent of a child on any participating team; teachers should not judge their own students; judges should not have other obvious conflicts of interest.
- **Team Coach or Advisor** is usually a teacher from the participating team's high school. A coach or advisor can also be a parent, faculty member, or graduate student. All teams must have a coach or advisor approved by the high school's administration.
- **High School Students** compose an ethics bowl **Team**. A team must represent an accredited and certified school that offers classes for grades 9, 10, 11, and/or 12 in the United States and must have endorsement of the school administration. Home school students are allowed to participate. Having an even number of teams compete in a Regional Competition is ideal for the ethics bowl format.
- Room Staff and General Volunteers help maintain a Regional Competition. Room staff ensure all
 materials are present during a round (the correct case packet for that round, timers, a coin, and enough
 scratch paper and pens for the judges and students). General volunteers can help with event duties and
 fill-in gaps if any occur.
- **Scorekeeper** ensures the scores of each team for each round are correct. The scorekeeper will recheck the math of each team's scoresheet and keep team ranking based on the following order: number of wins, number of losses, number of judges votes, point differential, and point total.

The number of judges, moderators, room staff, and general volunteers depend on the number of teams competing in the competition. Remember, it is better to have more volunteers than too few during the competition. If a regional has a field of 18 teams and 4 preliminary rounds, it is recommended to have at least 45 judges with 12 moderators.

Do Students Need to Use Ethical Theories?

Teams do not need to reference specific ethicists or ethical theories: doing so is not a requirement of a good answer, nor is it indicative of a poor answer. The argument matters; it is not necessary to name the philosopher associated with the argument. Keep in mind that a team is speaking to a broad audience: some judges might have no formal background in philosophy or ethics, and may not understand a student's reference to "Kantianism." A good strategy is to explain ethical reasoning in terms everyone can understand. Philosophical name-dropping is not a substitute for presenting a sound argument.

Recruiting High Schools

There are several different approaches when recruiting high schools to participate in a regional competition. An organizer may find one approach to be highly successful or use a mixture.

Direct Contact

Directly contacting high schools in your surrounding area is the best approach. In particular, contact



teachers who coach Speech and Debate, Forensics, Model UN, and similar competitions. If you cannot find specific information about teachers, start by contacting Department Chairs (particularly from Social Studies, History, and English), Principals, Assistant Principals, and Guidance/ Career Councilors. Send an email introducing yourself and University affiliation, explain the mission and academic goals of the ethics bowl, available coaching and resource opportunities, and the national participation. Consider contacting the superintendent of the local public school districts.

When you make contact with an interested teacher or representative from a school, organize an in-person meeting, phone call, or Skype/Facetime. Provide detailed information about the regional competition, the program's academic and civic goals, and NHSEB success across the country. Ethics bowl can be introduced as a student club or developed into a teacher's curriculum. Direct contact with teachers can provide word-of-mouth opportunity to other interested high schools.

Consider contacting a high school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Ask for an opportunity to provide a small presentation about NHSEB and its academic benefits. Parents tend to have a very positive

reaction to the ethics bowl and are great liaisons for getting an ethics bowl started at their child's school. Parents are distribute information about the ethics bowl word-of-mouth to other parents.

Creating Affiliations and Partnerships

Regional organizers can development partnerships with Departments, Schools, Programs (School of Education, Undergraduate Admissions, Teach for America, Public Policy, etc.) across a University that work closely with K-12 education and public service. These Departments, Schools, or Programs might have established partnerships with local high schools, a designated liaison, and/or a high school database. Departments, Schools, or Programs are also viable candidates to sponsor a competition.

Community Involvement and Publicity

A Regional competition that receives public support, involvement, or approval from notable community members (University's Chancellor, mayor, politicians, news anchors, etc.) can increase opportunity for involvement and publicity. The same principal applies to news and local public radio. Organizers can send press releases to media outlets in hope to receive local coverage. This is a great idea during the start of the school season (September, October) when there is ample time for high schools to start a team and practice for a competition. Also, ask these community members to serve as judges for the competition.

If available, contact the University's Office of Communications and Public Affairs. They can help develop a successful press release, create contacts with high schools, and generate a campaign for your Regional.

Recruiting Judges and Volunteers

About two to three months before the regional competition is an ideal time to start recruiting judges, moderators, and volunteers. At that point, the majority of teams competing in the regional should be registered or have expressed interest in the competition. Knowing the number of teams competing in the ethics bowl will guide how many judges, moderators, and general volunteers are needed.

For each match, three judges, one moderator, and one room staff, are required. One round of competition with eight matches (in total 16 teams competing), for example, will require 24 judges, 8 moderators, and 8 room staffers. This is only for one preliminary round! A Regional Competition will have 3 to 4 preliminary rounds with semifinals and/or quarterfinals, and finals. For a competition with 8 team matches and 3 preliminary rounds, up to 72 individual judges are needed. When sending invitations to participate as a judge, people may volunteer for one or two rounds or all day. The participation time of your volunteers will reflect on the total number of judges and moderators needed for the competition.

Approaches to Recruiting Volunteers

Recruiting volunteers—judges, moderators, and general event assistance—is similar to recruiting high schools to participate in a competition. If you are a regional organizer with a University affiliation, send an invitation to participate via email to your colleagues and department faculty members. Faculty, adjunct instructors, fellows, lecturers, and graduate students are great candidates to judge a competition. Although it is not required for teams to use ethical theory, it is helpful to have some judges with a

philosophical background and/or training. Consider first approaching the Philosophy, Humanities, Anthropology, and English & Literature Departments. These Departments have similar goals aligned with NHSEB. Additionally, if there are Department LISTSERVs for faculty, graduate & undergraduate students, and staff, ask the LISTSERV manager to post an invitation to participate.

An invitation to participate should inform a person 1) what is an ethics bowl 2) what are the academic goals of an ethics bowl 3) participation time, scheduling preferences 4) refreshments or catering provided to volunteers. A organizer should tailor invitations to participate depending on the audience and type of volunteer needed (judge, moderator, general event assistance). If a person volunteers to judge or moderate, they are usually available for one or two rounds. Some people are more than willing to volunteer all day. In-person conversations with colleagues or other community members about the ethics bowl and the need for volunteers is another recruitment tool. If your University or local community has a weekly or monthly newsletter/gazette/forum, ask to post an announcement about the regional competition and the need for volunteers.

Who Can Serve as a Judge and Moderator?

All matches should be judged by a panel of three neutral judges. That is, a judge should not be a coach or parent of a child on any participating team, teachers should not judge their own students, and a judge should not have other obvious conflicts of interest. With these exceptions in mind almost anyone can serve as a judge or moderator!

The moderator "runs the room." The moderator will keep time and move the match through its various components (Presentation, Commentary, Response, Judges' Questions) while ensuring all participants and spectators comply with NHSEB Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines. Similar to a judge, the moderator can be a community member or professional (lawyer, physician, nurse, academic, veterinarian, engineer, etc.). The moderator is a great position for undergraduate students. If your University has a Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl team, approach the members and coach about volunteering as judges or moderators. A Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl team is a great resource when organizing a competition especially to provide coaching assistance to teams.

Judge and Moderator Training

The volunteers you recruit for a regional competition may not understand what is an ethics bowl, the procedures, and scoring. As an organizer, you'll need to train your judges and moderators so the competition will be consistent and fair throughout the rounds. Teams deserve a match that runs smoothly where judges and moderators are professional and understand their role.

The NHSEB provides rules and guidelines for both judges and moderators that can be found on the NHSEB website. The NHSEB also provides all necessary documents needed for a Regional Competition: score sheet, scoring criteria, areas of scoring, moderator script, moderator procedures, and competition match format. These documents are essential for judges and moderators to review before the Regional Competition.

It is recommended organizers offer a training session for potential judges and moderators before the regional the week of or the morning of the competition. The training sessions should be separate due to the fact judges and moderators have different roles unless your volunteers are sharing duties. The training sessions should review the Rules and Guidelines, score sheet, scoring criteria, and other essential documents used during the

competition for each role. If there is limited time or volunteers cannot attend in-person training session, consider using a conference call or video platform to record the training session. The NHSEB website also provides community-sourced training resources, guides, and videos.

Lastly, share the regional ethics case set with judges prior to the competition. Judges should have brief knowledge of each ethics case in order to have an effective question and answer session with each team.



Competition Planning and Logistics

The expected time frame for planning and organizing a competition is about three to six months. This includes the early stages of recruiting high schools and volunteers to the actual competition. It is better to provide yourself more time to prepare for a competition than feel rushed or face unanticipated circumstances (a team dropping out, bad weather, no-show volunteers, etc.). Below are the logistical elements commonly found in regional competitions. It is helpful for an organizer to share these responsibilities with a co-organizer or group of people interest in high school ethics bowl.

Registration Fees & Forms

NHSEB requires all high schools competing in a ethics bowl to register at least four weeks before their regional competition. The NHSEB registration fee is \$75 per school. This registration goes directly to the NHSEB to help underserved teams travel to the Nationals and off-set other Regional Competition costs. In the event of a economic hardship or other sustaining factors, a school should contact the NHSEB Executive Committee for scholarship opportunities. Additionally, the NHSEB will waive all registration fees for schools an entire regional competition if they fall under the registration exemptions.

An organizer may charge an additional registration fee for participating schools in order to cover competition expenses. The NHSEB recommends this registration fee be no higher than \$50 per school.

Keep in mind, when a school pays the NHSEB registration fee this does not automatically register the school to compete in a regional competition. A NHSEB staff member will contact a regional organizer

every week to provide updates on school registration. Besides direct contact with participating schools, an organizer should consider creating a registration form. A registration form is a good tool in collecting information about a high school, the number of participating teams, number of students and their names, coach contact information, and participant food allergies. There are several form templates such as PayPal, Google Form, Survey Monkey, Microsoft Word, etc.

Website & Social Media

Developing a web presence for a regional competition is helpful for high schools, volunteers, sponsors, and publicity. A website can provide general information about the competition: date, location, schedule, registration, resources, specific information for teams and volunteers. If you cannot create a website through your University, WordPress is a free and easy to use content management system. Creating a Facebook or Twitter can provide participants direct information and updates. Even consider creating a Hashtag (#NHSEB) for your regional in which students can use when posting on social media platforms.



Venue

A college campus is an ideal location for a competition. Pairing the academic goals of an ethics bowl with a campus setting enhances students' learning experience. For some students, this might be their first time visiting a University. Many coaches remark how their students are inspired and excited to apply for college when a regional competition is hosted at a University. Lastly, hosting a competition at a University provides an accessible pool of judges. A competition can also take place at a high school, community center, library, conference center.

When choosing a venue consider several possible accommodations needed for a competition: access to several rooms (depending on number of matches) and lecture hall/small auditorium, AV equipment, permitted food and drink, accessible facilities, and possible distractions.

Catering

An ethics bowl is a all-day event. Providing breakfast and lunch to participants ensures time for socialization outside the competition which is a request from many students. Providing breakfast and lunch in the competition venue maintains participants adhere to the event schedule. Consider creating a simple continental breakfast and ordering boxed sandwiches or pizza for lunch. Some Universities will

offer vouchers for on-campus dinning services. When providing food, ask participants for any dietary restrictions (vegetarian, vegan, peanut allergies, and nightshade allergies, etc.). If breakfast and lunch catering is too costly consider approaching local restaurants to sponsor or donate to the event.

Planning Schedule: Month-to-Month

Starting a new Regional Competition generally requires between three to six months of preparation. Below is a month-to month draft schedule for competitions hosted in January or February.

June-July

Propose organizing and hosting a high school ethics bowl to your department Chair, colleagues, and/or public school superintendent. Discover if you need official approval from the Department or University. Gain support and interest from people that can possibly help you co-organize a competition. At this time, research local schools and teachers to gather contact information for initial recruitment. Consider sending an initial email to possible high schools. Draft a plan and schedule as well as select a date for the regional competition.

August-September

Actively start recruiting high schools. Send invitations to participate to teachers, principals, and guidance/career councilors. Organize a meeting or presentation with local PTAs. Include information about the academic benefits of the NHSEB, how to start a team, coaching assistance & philosophy resources (if possible), and time commitment. Ensure the case set is accessible to high schools. Start scouting possible sponsors. Outline and prepare a plan for coaching assistance to teams.

October-November

Continue to recruit and follow-up with high schools. If a high school has agreed to participate, confirm they understand the NHSEB Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines. If needed (and possible), provide coaching assistance to teams that are unfamiliar with ethical theory and developing effective lines of reasoning. Consider hosting a small information session for teachers about coaching an ethics bowl team. Confirm a venue or identify when you can reserve a space. Start developing a working agenda for the competition.

By the end of November, confirm high schools and determine how many teams will participate. If a few high schools have confirmed, re-approach previous high schools with information about participating high schools and other new developments. The participating team roster should be an even number (8,10, 12, etc. teams). The NHSEB competition format is based on a match set with two teams. At this time, start recruiting judges, moderators, and volunteers based on the number of confirmed teams. It is better to have more volunteers than too few. The week of the competition people will have last minute obligations or no shows.

December

Continue recruiting judges, moderators, and volunteers. Develop press materials and contact local news outlets about the upcoming regional competition. Determine caterer(s) for breakfast and lunch. Ask confirmed participants if there are any dietary restrictions before placing orders. Place orders for trophies, medals, and other memorabilia such as, t-shirts, water bottles, etc.. Consider hiring a photographer. Select the cases and moderator questions used for each round. Buy supplies for the competition (paper, folders, name tags, large envelopes, pens, and legal pads, etc.). Start making copies of competition documents for match packets and judge & moderator folders.

January-February

Continue to keep in contact with teams. Confirm all schools are registered with the NHSEB. Reconfirm venue, catering, trophies, and photographer. Provided updated information about the event agenda to all participants (teams, judges, moderators, and volunteers). If needed, create and send a map where the competition is located. Common questions before the competition usually pertain to parking, if spectators (parents) are allowed, event time & location, and dietary restrictions. Continue to send press releases to media outlets. Create a program/public agenda for the competition.

If you are not organizing a judges' & moderators' training the morning of the event, schedule a training the week before or week of the competition. Ensure all judges and moderators understand the NHSEB Rules, Guidelines, and Procedures. Send judges and moderators the specific documents they will use during the competition for familiarity including the case set.

Create case packets and judge & moderator folders. Each match in a round will need a packet. See "Packets & Folders" for information about the materials included in a case packet.

Familiarize yourself or assigned scorekeeper with the NHSEB scoring procedures. Be prepared to answer questions from coaches about scoring and tiebreakers. Review the guidelines if a number of odd teams occur.

Create an event checklist and day-of agenda for yourself and other coorganizers. Make a list with contact phone numbers for co-organizers, coaches, general volunteers, caterer(s), and public safety.

Host the competition!



Selecting Case Matches & Moderator Questions

The central component of the ethics bowl is the case set. There are two case sets per season created by the NHSEB. The regional case set is released early September and the National case set is released in mid-February. The case sets contain between 15 to 17 cases. Previous case topics include: ethical consumerism, alternative beliefs in school, dating a friend's ex, violence against bullies, and employing previous criminals. Regional organizers will create case matches from the Regional case set for their competition. For example, if a competition has six rounds then six case matches are needed; a total of 12 cases. Each match in a single round will have the same set of cases. Organizers can use their discretion to inform teams what cases will be used in the competition.

Before matching cases read the entire case set with accompanying study questions. Ask one or two colleagues to help with this task. Having a variety of opinions is helpful. Remember, there is no specific formula when matching the cases. Every competition will select and match cases differently. NHSEB recommends matching cases with similar moral dilemmas rather than case content/subject. Consider the motivations, obligations, assumptions, prohibitions, conflicts, agents, principals, gaps, and potential responses to each case. It is important to match cases with similar difficulty to maintain fairness between teams. The same considerations apply when selecting or creating moderator questions (also known as case questions) for each case. When the regional case set is released in September, the NHSEB also releases a selection of moderator questions per case for organizers to use or modify. For a match, the questions asked should have similar moral focus and sentence structure. Organizers may decide the best question to ask for a case is a study question. The study questions are designed to guide teams in thinking more deeply about the issues at hand. If choosing a study question for one case, select a study question for another case in the same match.

Randomizing & Matching Teams per Round

Matches in each round feature two teams meeting face-to-face. Teams are assigned to matches by random selection. An organizer can decide to assign team matches the day of the competition by randomly drawing two teams per round or randomly pre-selecting team matches before the competition. The latter option is helpful especially if there are many teams (more than 7), limited time, and to mitigate day-of tasks. Deciding to pre-select teams also ensures no team or judge will encounter the same team twice. The former option adds an energetic vibe to the competition by keeping teams on their toes. Team matches can also vary if the competition is round-robin (or all-play-all) versus elimination.

There are two common methods on matching teams. The first is to randomly pull teams. For each round team names are placed in a container then pulled to create a match. If an exact team match from one round is pulled for another round then the match would be re-drawn. The second method is to use a online random team generator. Insert the team names into the function and the algorithm will automatically assign matches. Again, check team matches per round for any consistencies. Random Team Generator, Random Lists, and Team Maker are some examples. If you are mathematically gifted, you can use Excel to create a formula for randomly assigning team matches.

Once teams are matched per round without any repeats, double-check the judge assignments. A judge should not evaluate a team twice in the preliminary rounds due to potential bias. Have a colleague confirm there are no repeat matches, teams missing, or judges' schedule twice for the same team. It may take some shuffling of team matches and judges before the competition schedule is fair and ready to be public.



Quarterfinals and Semifinals are usually

single-elimination or knock-out. Teams are not randomly matched, but matched according to their rank after the last preliminary round. The team in 1st place will compete with the team in 8th place, the 2nd place team will compete with the 7th place team, and so on.

If an Odd Number of Teams Occur

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. If you know ahead of the competition there will be an odd number of teams, be transparent with coaches about the need for flexibility about the possibility for 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. Below are some options to use if there is an odd number of teams.

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 3 vs. Team.

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.

Packets and Folders

Organization is the best tool for hosting a well-run ethics bowl. For each round, there will be several matches happening at the same time, imputing scoring data from previous matches, and possibly unexpected interruptions. Creating case packets by match will help keep each round organized and loose paper at a minimum. A case packet contains the necessary documents for each match:

- 3 score sheets
- 3 winner tally sheets
- 3 scoring rubrics
- 8 copies of Case A (2 cases per team, 1 case per judge (3), 1 case for moderator)
- 8 copies of Case B (2 cases per team, 1 case per judge (3), 1 case for moderator)

These materials should be placed in a clasp envelope or self-sealed envelope (10" x 13") labeled with the round number (Round 1, Round 2, etc.) Additionally, each match room should be supplied with blank paper for teams to take notes, extra pens, and a coin (if necessary).

Providing judges and moderators with a folder to hold reference materials is another organization tool. Using folders is a method to check-in volunteers and keep the relevant documents for each role contained. Documents for judge and moderator folders: a venue map, event agenda/program, round assignments, name tag, name tent card, pen, pad of paper, score sheet, scoring rubric, and competition procedures. A moderator folder should also contain a moderator script. Judge and moderator folders should be label with each participant's name.

Team packets are similar to judge and moderator folders, but are specific for team information. Team packets contain the same documents: a venue map, event agenda/program, round assignments, score sheet, scoring rubric, pens (at least 5) and competition procedures. These packets also contain a tent card with the team name and self-adhesive badges for students to write their names. A clasp envelope or self-sealed envelope (10" x 13") labeled with the team name is ideal. Provide team packets to each coach during check-in or registration before the competition.

Feel free to experiment with different methods of organizing and sharing materials to discover what best suits your regional's needs. The above descriptions of packets and folders are used at the Nationals.

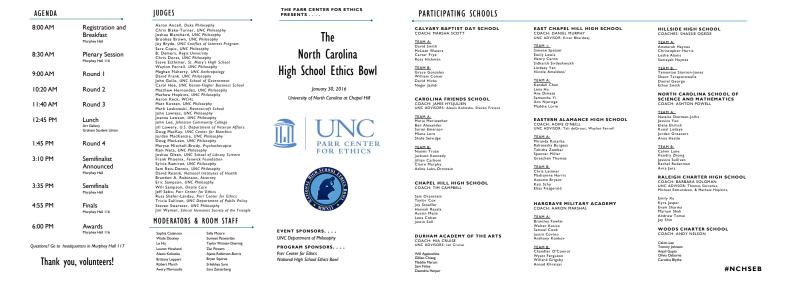
Agenda and Program

Once participating high schools and the number of teams are confirmed, it is time to fully develop the competition agenda. An ethics bowl can be up to a ten hour day! Keep in mind the competition agenda needs to be flexible for any unexpected changes or interruptions. It is important to provide schedule padding during and between each round; about 10-15 minutes. Providing extra time between rounds

allows teams to review and evaluate the previous round to better prepare themselves for the next. It also ensures the competition will stay on-schedule if any matches go over the allotted time. When creating an agenda, you'll decide to include event components such as: Judges' or moderators' training; Team check-in; Breakfast, Lunch; Plenary session; Award ceremony; Enrichment event (a campus tour, a speaker or presentation, etc.).

Organizers will decide on the number of preliminary rounds and the inclusion of a quarterfinals and/or semifinals. Teams have diligently prepared and practiced for the competition. The NHSEB recommends a minimum of three preliminary rounds to provide a fair assessment of each team before moving to quarterfinals or semifinals. The NHSEB also recommends having a quarterfinals and/or semifinals before the finals rather than moving directly to the finals from preliminary rounds.

Providing participants and spectators with an event program is an opportunity to recognize teams and volunteers as well as publicly thank sponsors. The program can house a condensed version of the agenda. Microsoft Word or Apple Pages have easy-to-use templates for trifold or booklet programs.



Sample program from the North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl

Awards and Memorabilia

After the finals are completed, presenting teams with trophies or certificates is a celebratory conclusion for ethics bowl. An awards ceremony highlights the accomplishment of the top four teams and recognizes student participation. Regional Organizers can award other areas of achievement and sportsmanship: honorable mentions, best commentary, best response to judge's questions, or most school spirit. Regional Competitions can also adopt the "Bob Ladenson Spirit of the Ethics Bowl Award". The award is named after the creator of the ethics bowl who wanted to inspire respect, civility, and thoughtfulness in his class discussion. The Bob Ladenson Spirit of the Ethics Bowl Award" is given to the

team that best embodies the spirt and ideals of the ethics bowl as voted on by their competitors. Although ethics bowl is a competition, it is important that all students regardless of their team ranking are acknowledged for their commitment to the academic goals of the competition. A certificate of excellence or medal are easy, but notable awards to duplicate.

Supplying memorabilia to supply teams and volunteers is fun. Memorabilia adds excitement to the competition and is a great opportunity for promoting the



ethics bowl after the competition is over. Add the NHSEB logo, regional name, or sponsor's logos to t-shirts, tote bags, pens, sunglasses, coffee mugs, water bottles etc.. Keep the design simple for bulk order or add specific details (name of high schools, competition date and location, and sponsors). If expenses are a concern, ask a local screenprinting shop to sponsor a batch of t-shirts. Some Universities also have print shops that offer reduced prices for faculty or campus events.

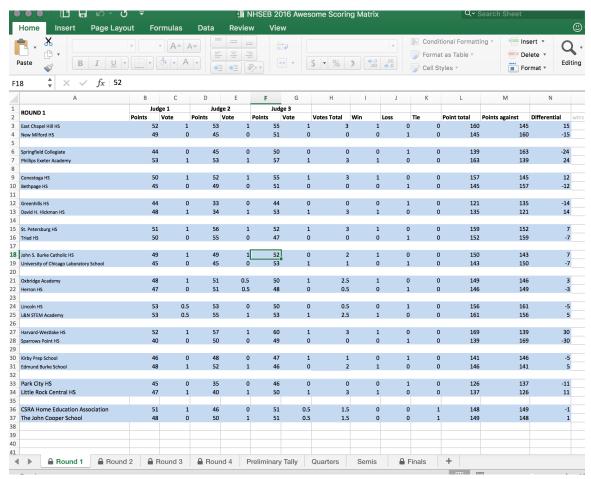
In addition to memorabilia, consider hiring a professional photographer (or an amateur photographer) to capture competition moments and team portraits. Professional photographs can elevate the promotional marketing of the competition to showcase collaboration and spirit.

Scorekeeping

Scorekeeping is a large component of the competition. After each match the number of judges' votes, awarded points per judge, the number of wins, losses, and ties, point total from all three judges, and point differential should be recorded per round for each team. The above scoring elements are used when ranking teams to determine the quarterfinalist and/or semifinalist and tiebreakers. It is recommended to input and track scoring data for teams after each round.

For example, after Round 1, moderators will supply the scorekeeper(s) with a completed case packet and then receive a new case packet for Round 2. Once all Round 1 case packets are received and Round 2 packets are released, the scorekeeper will verify each scoresheet calculation per match and input the data into a Excel spreadsheet or preferred data organization software.

Some regional organizers ask faculty (or graduate students) from mathematics department to volunteer as the scorekeeper. While other regional organizers act as the scorekeeper and work with a colleague who will double check possible miscalculations. Above is a sample layout of keeping score via Excel spreadsheet. Before the competition please familiarize yourself with the scoring criteria and tiebreakers.



Sample scoring system for the National competition

If an Error Occurs While Scorekeeping

Accidental miscalculations and errors can occur while inputting scores. It is important to act swiftly if you or a coach recognize an error—have a plan in place! If a miscalculation or mistake leads to an error in preliminary team ranking, temporarily pause the competition. Correct the error and re-rank the teams. If the same teams remain in the top eight/four ranking, but different order, continue the competition. If new teams are added to the top eight/four ranking, make an announcement to the coaches about the error and indicate which teams will move forward to quarterfinals/semifinals.

In the scenario when the quarterfinals/semifinals are taking place and a error is recognized such as a team should not qualify for these rounds, if possible, communicate with moderators to pause their match. Teams can be switched or corrected, only if, the presentation period has not started. If the presentation period has started for a match then the competition must continue forward. Apologize to the team that was mistakenly excluded. An option is to recognize the team with a sportsmanship award.

Biased or Unfair Judges

A situation may occur where the scorekeeper may notice a particular judge scored a team significantly below or above the other two judges' scores. The scorekeeper may read in a judge's comment that the judge did not personally agree with the team's position (indicating a low score) or provide high personal remarks about a team (indicating a high score). A coach may tell the scorekeeper about a judge that engaged with their team on a personal viewpoint rather than evaluate the team's breadth and depth of thought as applied to a case. Recognizing a bias or unfair judge usually occurs after a match. A coach may ask for their team's score to be modified for consistency with the other judges' scores. It is up to the regional organizer to use their discretion in bias or unfair scoring. The NHSEB recommends removing the judge from other matches and not inviting them to future competitions. If a team is particularly hurt by a judge's inappropriate critique, ensure the team that the judge is removed from the competition and apologize for the oversight. If needed, the scorekeeper can evaluate the team to see if a judge's low score jeopardized their preliminary ranking.

Additionally, a judge may forget to disclose a relationship with a team until the match occurs. If possible, switch that judge with another judge in match or replace the judge with someone on standby.

After the Competition

Congratulations on successfully hosting a regional competition! You did it! After the competition there are several tasks to be completed including thanking volunteers and creating a post-event press release.

Thank you Emails

Within a week after the competition all volunteers should receive a thank you email from the regional organizer. This email is a thoughtful gesture to remind your volunteers that you appreciate them taking time out of their busy schedule to help make the competition a successful event. The thank you can be a short note or provide a recap of the event and its impact on students. Feel free to remind volunteers that this is an annual event and help is always appreciated. It is important to personalize each thank you to include the volunteer's name and their role (judge, moderator, general event staff, etc.). Below are sample thank you emails for judges, moderators, and general volunteers.

It is also important to send a thank you to the venue host, caterer, and event sponsors. Event sponsors may require a detailed report about the competition and how their funds were used.

Dear Sri,

I would like to thank you for your participation in the fourth annual North Carolina High Ethics School Bowl on Saturday, January 30th. Without you, it would not be possible to make this regional event such a success! It was a tremendous learning experience for well over 85 students.

In case you were not able to stay until the finals, I am pleased to inform you that East Chapel Hill High School Team A won first place. Coming in second and third place were North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Team B and Chapel Hill High School, respectively. Eastern Alamance High School was voted by their peers as the winners of the Spirts of the Ethics Bowl Award. By all reports, the schools in the competition were genuinely impressive!

As a volunteer, you played a crucial role in helping us provide an engaging, stimulating, and yet comfortable atmosphere for the NC HSEB that made it possible for students to focus on understanding complex ethical issues while engaging in fruitful discussion with others. Thank you!

On April 15-16th the Parr Center for Ethics will be hosting the National High School Ethics Bowl. Twenty-four teams from across North America will compete in Chapel Hill for the National Championship title. This will be our largest event to date. I hope you will consider serving as a moderator at the Nationals!

Thank you!

April 15, 2015

Dear David,

I would like to thank you for your participation in the third annual National High School Ethics Bowl (NHSEB) on April 10-11th at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Without you, it would not be possible to make this national event such a success. As things turned out, though, it was a tremendous learning experience for well over 100 students.

In case you were not able to stay until the finals, I am pleased to inform you that Waterford High School (Sandy, UT) won first place. Coming in second and third place were Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter, NH) and Areté Preparatory Academy (Los Angeles, CA), respectively. Kirby School (Santa Cruz, CA) was voted by their peers' as the winner of the *Bob Ladenson Spirit of the Ethics Bowl Award*. By all reports, all the schools in the competition were genuinely impressive. To the extent our goals have been to encourage critical thinking, promote thoughtful engagement with ethical questions, and foster skills in teamwork and collaboration, their performance suggests we have succeeded in spades.

As a judge, you played an absolutely crucial role in setting the tone for the competition and in helping the students appreciate the complexity of the ethical issues they were asked to discuss. Teams and coaches alike repeatedly mentioned to me just how excellent the judging was and how effectively, yet gently and respectfully, the judged encouraged people to think more deeply and carefully than they otherwise would. Thank you

I hope you will consider serving as a judge for next year's National High School Ethics Bowl.

Cordially,

Dear Margaret,

I'm writing to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to help make the National High School Ethics Bowl such a success. Everything ran so smoothly during the event, and it was largely owing to volunteers like you who devoted your time to these inspiring high school students. This iteration of the national bowl was the largest ever, and required help from well over 100 folks. I'm very grateful to you for being one of them.

All the best.

Post-event Press Release

Creating a post-event press release continues to increase awareness about the regional competition. It informs the community a local high school is representing their state in a national academic event. Circulate the press release to local media outlets. Include information about the number of participants, the finalists and semifinalists, winners of other awards, sponsors, the venue, etc.. The post-event press release is an opportunity to highlight student success in civil discourse and solicit new sponsors.

Regional Competition Final Report for NHSEB

The NHSEB requires Regional Organizers to complete a final report about the competition. The information collected in the report helps the NHSEB determine regional size (large or small), track participation growth, and assess different competition formats.

Provide Scoresheets and Final Ranking to Teams

After the competition, teams will inquire about their scoresheets per match and final ranking. Providing teams with copies of their scoresheets allows them to examine their strengths and weakness as well as better prepare or change strategies for the next competition. The scoresheets are considered a beneficial tool for many teams. The NHSEB recommends creating digital copies of each scoresheet and using Google Drive or Dropbox to share with teams.

Teams will also want to know their final placement/standing/ranking compared to the competition field. Organizers can use their discretion to decide if the final ranking should be publicized. At the Nationals, the final four teams in order of rank is made public and the competition field ranking is a internal document for teams only.

Inform Winning Team on their Next Steps

Regional organizers will need to inform the winning team on their next steps to the Nationals. If a competition is categorized as large, the team will have an automatic bye to the Nationals. If a Regional Competition is categorized as small, the team will compete in a Virtual Bowl Playoff with another team from a small regional competition. The winner of the Virtual Bowl Playoff will advance to the Nationals. In either circumstance, the regional organizer is responsible for introducing the coach—a simple email—to a NHSEB staff member.



Budget and Fundraising

A Regional Competition can roughly cost between \$500 to \$3,000. The cost of the competition depends on the number of teams, inclusion of different event components, catering, and awards and memorabilia. Administrative, venue rental, and copying/printing services are other expenditures to budget. Requiring schools to pay a registration fee—between \$25 and \$50—can help offset some costs. Many of these event expenses can be reduced by receiving sponsorships or donations. Sponsors, private or corporate entities,

or donations from local business can help sustain, build, and enhance a competition. Requesting in-kind gifts, a charitable contribution of goods or services, is ideal for event catering or venue rental.

A successful fundraising campaign requires preparation. Develop a budget and determine monetary gaps. Identifying specific needs for the competition is helpful to target sponsors and donations. Creating levels of sponsorship is another option to address specific needs. For example, a "community friend" sponsorship level is a gift minimum of \$100 versus a "program sponsor" is a gift minimum of \$2,000. Determine how sponsors will be recognized at the competition.

14 teams, 10 schools		
January 10, 2015		
Expense	Vendor	Amount
Judges luncheon	Sandwhich	\$690.00
Student luncheon	IP3	\$428.12
Judges breakfast	Whole Foods	\$221.00
Student breakfast	Panera	\$330.78
Snacks & bottled water	Harris Teeter	\$115.68
	Total food costs:	\$1,785.58
Venue 1	Student union (team luncheon)	\$75.00
	Total venue costs:	\$75.00
Supplies (folders, nametags)	Staples	\$132.88
rophies	Occasions Engraving	\$360.41
	Total supply costs:	\$493.29
T-shirts	The merch	\$1,602.50
	Total swag costs:	\$1,602.50
	Actual costs total:	\$3,956.37

Sample budget from North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl

Each sponsor or donor may have a

set of stipulations to follow. It is important to do research before contacting or spending a proposal. Identify events they have previously supported to recognize any themes or commonalities.

It is important to create a set of materials that can easily be adapted to different sponsors or donors. The NHSEB has sharable promotional materials to help potential sponsors or donors understand the mission and educational goals of an ethics bowl. The NHSEB can help edit or review proposals and assist with other fundraising needs.

Applying for grants is another opportunity to receive sustainable funds for an ethics bowl. Writing a grant proposal is often labor-intensive to produce a document between 15 to 55 pages. The undertaking of a successful grant proposal can potentially provide multiple years of funding.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a High School Ethics Bowl?

An ethics bowl is a competitive yet collaborative event in which students discuss timely real-life ethical issues. In each round of competition, teams take turns analyzing ethical cases and responding to questions and comments from another team and a panel of judges. An ethics bowl differs from a debate competition in that students are not assigned opposing views; rather, they defend whichever position they think is correct, provide each other with constructive criticism, and win by demonstrating that they have thought rigorously and systematically about the cases and engaged respectfully and supportively with all participants.

Data from NHSEB surveys shows ethics bowl teaches and promotes ethical awareness, critical thinking, civil discourse, civic engagement, and an appreciation for multiple points of view in students. Teachers also believe students involved in ethics bowl have improved standardized test scores compared to non-participating students.

What is the role of the Regional Organizer(s)?

A regional organizer(s) is a person or group of people who coordinate all logistics in order to successfully run and host a Regional Competition. An organizer is the main contact for a high school ethics bowl in a particular area. This person ensures the competition follows the mission of the NHSEB.

Can a high school teacher organizer a Regional Competition?

A high school teacher can organizer a competition. Although not ideal, the NHSEB will support a teacher-organizer if they ensure they will not match teams, select cases, or keep score. It is important the teacher-organizer discloses if they are coaching a team in the competition.

The NHSEB prefers a competition to be affiliated with a University. The NHSEB will help a teacher create a partnership with their local University.

Is a High School Ethics Bowl and Regional Competition the same event?

A regional competition is a high school ethics bowl. A competition is registered with the NHSEB and the winner of the competition has an opportunity to attend the Nationals in April. Some regional organizers host practice ethics bowls before or after the Regional Competition. A teacher or coach may host a inter-school ethics bowl for their students.

I'm interested in organizing a Regional Competition, how do I start?

Awesome! The first step is to send an email with your name and affiliation to ethicsbowl@unc.edu

Is there a list of Regional Competitions?

A complete list of Regional Competitions can be found at the NHSEB website, here.

Who participates in a High School Ethics Bowl?

High school—public, private, charter, magnet, independent, dual enrollment, and homeschool—students from 9th to 12th grade can participate in a team at an ethics bowl. Teams are composed of three to seven students with three to five students seated on a team in any one match. High school teachers usually serve as the coach or team advisor. It is permissible for parents to coach a team if approved by the high school administration. Other participants include judges, moderators, and general event volunteers. These roles can be fulfilled by community members, local professionals, and faculty, adjunct instructors, graduate, and undergraduate students from a near by University, College, or Community College.

Do Judges need a background in Philosophy?

No. It is not required for judges to have a degree or training in Philosophy. The NHSEB recommends judges come from diverse backgrounds. Some are philosophers or professional ethicists; others come from a range of fields such as business, education, medicine, journalism; and some are fans of ethics bowls.

What is the cost of organizing a High School Ethics Bowl?

A regional competition can cost between \$500 to \$3,000. The cost of the competition depends on the number of teams, inclusion of different event components, catering, and awards and memorabilia. The cost of administrative, venue rental, and copying/printing services are other expenditures to budget.

When is the best time to host a competition?

The NHSEB season begins early September with the release of the Regional ethics case set and concludes early February. Many regionals occur between December and February. The NHSEB advises organizers to provide teams with at least two months of preparation time. Additionally, when scheduling a competition please be aware of other high school academic event: ACT, SAT, Speech and Debate tournaments, Winter Break, and Exam Days.

How long does the competition last?

A competition is an all-day event held on either a Saturday or Sunday. The event can last between 8 to 10 hours. The length depends on a variety of factors: number of teams, number of preliminary round, providing breakfast and lunch, and including a plenary session, awards ceremony, and judges' and moderators' training.

A high school ethics bowl competition is divided into rounds: preliminary rounds, quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals. Each round is typically scheduled for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

What is the difference between a match and a round?

A match features two teams meeting face-to-face. Multiple matches can take place within a round. A Regional competition includes three to four preliminary rounds, quarterfinals/semifinals, and finals.

Where do you host a regional competition?

A college campus is an ideal location for a competition. A competition can also take place at a high school, community center, library, conference center. When choosing a venue consider several possible accommodations you may need: access to several rooms (depending on number of matches) and lecture hall/small auditorium, AV equipment, permitted food and drink, accessible facilities, and possible distractions.

Does the NHSEB have a registration fee?

The NHSEB requires all high schools competing in a regional competition to register at least four weeks before their competition. The registration fee is \$75 per school. In the event of a economic hardship or other sustaining factors, a school should contact the NHSEB Executive Committee for scholarship opportunities. Additionally, the NHSEB will waive registration fees for an entire regional competition if all schools fall under the registration exemptions.

Can a regional competition have a registration fee?

Yes. A regional competition may charge an additional registration fee for participating schools in order to cover event expenses. The NHSEB recommends this registration fee be no higher than \$50 per school.

Is there any financial support for a regional competition?

Currently, the NHSEB does not provide regional competitions with financial support. The NHSEB will provide assistance to organizers if they apply for grants or fundraise; such as, review proposals or write letters of support. In the future, we hope to distribute small stipends to regionals in need of financial assistance.

Does the NHSEB have rules?

Yes, the National High School Ethics Bowl Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines. This document is updated seasonally and can be found on the <u>NHSEB website</u>. Regional Competitions are encouraged to use the NHSEB Rules, Guidelines, and Procedures.

Can the NHSEB Rules, Guidelines, and Procedures be modified?

Experimentation with the NHSEB format is welcomed with approval by the NHSEB Executive Committee. Regional organizers should notify the NHSEB Executive Committee about any modifications and report the effects of these changes after the competition.

What topics are discussed in a High School Ethics Bowl?

A high school ethics bowl gives students the opportunity to learn about applied ethics through the analysis, research, and critical discussion of case studies that incorporate real world ethical conflicts from politics, business, international affairs, popular culture, and their personal lives. Previous topics included: breastfeeding in public, photoshop in advertising, dating a friend's ex, ecotourism, criminal background checks, and reporting in a school newspaper.

Do I need to write ethics cases for my competition?

No. The NHSEB releases a regional case set and supplemental moderator questions in early September for regional organizers to use for their competition.

Do teams competing in a High School Ethics Bowl need to use ethical or philosophical theory?

Teams do not need to reference specific ethicists or ethical theories: doing so is not a requirement of a good answer, nor is it indicative of a poor answer. The argument matters; it is not necessary to name the philosopher associated with the argument. Keep in mind that a team is speaking to a broad audience: some judges might have no formal background in philosophy or ethics, and may not understand a student's reference to "Kantianism." A good strategy is to explain ethical reasoning in terms everyone can understand. Philosophical name-dropping is not a substitute for presenting a sound argument.

Is there a dress code?

No. Students should dress in a way that makes them feel comfortable.

What is the different between a large and small Regional Competition?

Regional competitions are recognized as Large or Small depending on the number of reported participating schools (not teams) to the NHSEB. Large Regionals have the most number of schools in the regional competition field. The winning school of a Large Regional will automatically advance to the Nationals. Small Regionals have the lowest number of competing schools. The winning school of a Small Regional will compete in a Virtual Bowl Playoff against the winner of another Small Regional. The winner of the Virtual Playoff will advance to the Nationals. The NHSEB will communicate regional sizing to each organizer after their competition or in December, whichever comes first.

What is a Virtual Bowl Playoff?

The winning schools of small regional bowls will compete in a Virtual Bowl Playoff. This playoff will consist of a single match between two teams using Google Hangouts. Small regional playoffs will be matched according to time zone region and/or on a rolling basis (e.g. if two small regionals take place on the same weekend). When the NHSEB season concludes in early February, there is a two week period for the playoffs. The winner of the virtual bowl playoff will advance to the Nationals.

When and where are the Nationals?

The Nationals take place each April at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

If I have specific questions, who can I contact?

If you have specific questions unanswered in this guide, please send an email to ethicsbowl@unc.edu

Appendices

Appendix A, NHSEB Logo



Appendix B, Packets and Materials Check List

Judge Packets:

- Legal Pad (or paper)
- Pen
- Program
- Scoresheet
- · Scoring Rubric
- Competition procedure
- Assignments
- · Tent card
- Name tag

Coach (Team) Packets:

- Pens
- Program
- Scoresheet
- Scoring Rubric
- Enough name tag stickers for all students and coaches
- Team name tent card(s)
- Room assignments

Competition Rooms:

- A timer (or cell phone, iPad)
- A coin to flip
- Case packet for the appropriate round
- Extra moderator script in the room
- Scratch paper for all presenting students

Moderator Packets:

- Pen
- Program
- Legal Pad (or paper)
- Assignments
- Moderator script
- Moderator procedures
- Scoresheet
- Name tag

Case Packets:

- 3 score sheets (paper clipped together)
- 3 rubrics (paper clipped together)
- 8 copies of Case A: 2 per team, 1 per judge, and 1 per moderator (paper clipped together)
- 8 copies of Case B: 2 per team, 1 per judge, and 1 per moderator (paper clipped together)
- 3 winner tally sheets

Appendix C, Sample Press Release

News Release For immediate use

Eighteen teams participate in North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl

Students from across North Carolina and Virginia come to UNC-Chapel Hill to analyze topical issues in fourth annual competition

(Chapel Hill, N.C.—January 30, 2016) – The fourth annual North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl will bring 20 teams from across North Carolina and Virginia to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill January 29, 2016.

Hosted by <u>The Parr Center for Ethics</u> in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences, students will exercise their philosophical, analytical thinking and ethical muscles as they analyze topical issues. During the one-day event, all teams will compete in four rounds of competition. Cases and questions are developed under the guidance of the Parr Center and cover a broad range of topics including "Prison Work," "Trigger Warnings," "Acting Unnaturally," "Climate Debt" and "Cultural Artifacts."

The performance of each team is judged on the basis of how clearly, articulately and perceptively the students develop the positions they decide to take.

The competition will begin with a plenary session at 8:30 a.m. followed by the first round. Semifinals start at 3:35 p.m and commencing with awards presentation at 6:00 pm. The winning team will represent North Carolina at the Nationals in April.

The North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl is supported by the Parr Center for Ethics and UNC Department of Philosophy.

The high schools participating in the 2016 bowl include:

Calvary Baptist Day School
Carolina Friends School
Chapel Hill High School
Durham Academy of the Arts
East Chapel Hill High School
Eastern Adamance High School
Hargrave Military Academy
Hillside High School
North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics
Raleigh Charter High School
Woods Charter School

For more information, visit parreenter.unc.edu or email Katelin Kaiser, kskaiser@unc.edu

Appendix D, Sample Spirit of the Ethics Bowl Award Ballot

2016 National High School Ethics Bowl

presents

Bob Ladenson Spirit of the Ethics Bowl Award

OFFICIAL BALLOT

The Bob Ladenson Spirit of the Ethics Bowl Award is given to the high school that best embodies the spirit and ideals of the Ethics Bowl, as voted on by other competitors.

As a high school, cast your vote for the team you have faced that demonstrated exemplary:

- Respect, civility and courtesy for others, both during the rounds and informal discussion;
- · Thoughtfulness, in terms of expressing their positions and commenting on other teams' presentations
- Sportsmanship, in terms of valuing collaboration above competition

Your high school's name:

Check the school you feel best embodies the Bob Ladenson Spirit Award (only one team):

Springfield Collegiate Institute	Phillips Exeter Academy
Little Rock Central High School	Greenhills High School
Georgiana Bruce Kirby Preparatory School	David H. Hickman High School
Harvard-Westlake High School	New Milford High School
Edmund Burke School	Bethpage High School
Oxbridge Academy	John S. Burke Catholic High School
St. Petersburg High School	East Chapel Hill High School
CSRA Homeschoolers	Lincoln High School
University of Chicago Laboratory School	Conestoga High School
Triad High School	L&N STEM ACADEMY
Sparrows Point High School	The John Cooper School
Herron High School	Park City High School

Appendix E, Sample Invitation to Participate: Teachers

Dear Rory,

I am writing to invite Chilton Preparatory School to participate in the fourth annual North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl on Saturday, January 30, 2016. The competition takes place at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I am Katelin, assistant director of the Parr Center for Ethics and the organizer for the North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl. The North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl is housed within a national network called the National High School Ethics Bowl which promotes respectful, supportive, and in-depth discussion of ethics among high school students. The winning team of the North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl will represent their school at the Nationals in April along with twenty-three other teams from across North America.

In brief, an ethics bowl is a competitive yet collaborative event in which students discuss timely real-life ethical issues. In each round of competition, teams take turns analyzing ethical cases and responding to questions and comments from the opposing team and a panel of judges. An ethics bowl differs from a debate competition in that students are not assigned opposing views; rather, they defend whichever position they think is correct, provide each other with constructive criticism, and win by demonstrating that they have thought rigorously and systematically about the cases and engaged respectfully and supportively with all participants.

A team competing in the North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl must be composed of at least three high school students. The team will be capped at seven students, but only five students can be seated on a team in any one match. Additionally, all teams must have a coach or advisor vetted and approved by the school administration. High Schools are allowed up to two teams to compete in the North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl.

The Parr Center for Ethics provides coaching assistance to teach a team about ethical theory and to help them develop effective lines of reasoning. If you decide to start a team and compete in the North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl, we can arrange a bi-weekly time for a UNC philosophy graduate or undergraduate student to meet with your students.

If you're interested in starting a team, I would love to set up a time to talk to provide more information about high school ethics bowl.

Thank you!

Katelin Kaiser

Appendix F, Sample Invitation to Participate: Volunteers

The Parr Center of Ethics is once again hosting the North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl (NC HSEB). Twenty teams from across North Carolina will be participating in the fourth annual NC HSEB.

The event will be held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on January 30, 2016.

The NC HSEB brings together high school ethics bowl teams from across the state for a day of intensive examination and discussion of pressing ethical issues. Participating in ethics bowl develops students' intellectual abilities and capacities, deepens their ethical understanding, and reinforces their sense of ethical commitment. For more information about the North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl, please visit http://parrcenter.unc.edu/hseb/north-carolina-high-school-ethics-bowl.

To make the NC HSEB a successful learning experience, we rely on our community members to serve as judges, moderators, and general volunteers. The support and generosity of all our volunteers does not go unnoticed and is sincerely appreciated by all. As a volunteer, you play a crucial role in helping students understand how complex ethical issues can arise and encouraging their appreciation for the importance of diverse points of view.

We need help again this year! I hope you will consider serving as a judge, moderator, or general volunteer on January 30th, either for the whole day or a single round. Please send a confirmation email if you would like to participate or learn more information to Katelin Kaiser, <u>kskaiser@unc.edu</u>.

Thank you!

Katelin Kaiser

Appendix G, Sample Invitation to Participate: Previous Judges

Dear Lorelai,

The Parr Center of Ethics is once again hosting the North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl (NC HSEB). Twenty teams from across North Carolina will be participating in the fourth annual NC HSEB.

The event will be held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on January 30, 2016.

The NC HSEB brings together high school ethics bowl teams from across the state for a day of intensive examination and discussion of pressing ethical issues. Participating in ethics bowl develops students' intellectual abilities and capacities, deepens their ethical understanding, and reinforces their sense of ethical commitment. For more information about the North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl, please visit http://parrcenter.unc.edu/hseb/north-carolina-high-school-ethics-bowl.

Thank you for serving as a judge last year! As a judge, you played a crucial role in helping the students understand how complex ethical issues can arise and encouraging their appreciation for the importance of diverse points of view. It was a great learning experience in civil discourse for over 95 students. The support and generosity of our judges does not go unnoticed and is sincerely appreciated by all. Without you, it would not be possible to make this statewide event such a success!

We need your help again this year! I hope you will consider serving as a judge on January 30th, either for the whole day or a single round. Please share this invitation with your partner, family, colleagues, and friends.

I look forward to your response!

Katelin Kaiser

Appendix H, Sample Conformation Letter to Judges

Hello Lorelai,

Thank you so much for volunteering your time to serve as a judge at the 4th annual North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl (NC HSEB) on Saturday, January 30rd at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill! For the competition, we are hosting 20 teams from 12 schools from North Carolina and Virginia.

The day will begin with breakfast and judges' training at 8:00 to 8:45 a.m. in Caldwell Hall, room 105. The judges' training is required for people who have never served as a judge in an ethics bowl competition. If you cannot attend the judges' training, please let me know! The competition will then proceed in Murphey Hall as follows:

8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Judges' Training and Breakfast, Caldwell Hall 105 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Team Registration and Breakfast, Murphey Hall 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session, Murphey Hall 116 9:00 - 10:05 a.m. Round 1 Round 2 10:20 - 11:25 a.m. 11:40 a.m. - 12:45 p.m Round 3 Lunch, Art Gallery in Graham Student Union 12:45 - 1:30 p.m. 1:45 - 2:50 p.m. Round 4 Semifinalist Announced 3:10 - 3:20 p.m. 3:35 - 4:40 p.m. Semifinals 4:55 - 6:00 p.m. Finals, Murphey Hall 116 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Trophy Presentations & Conclusion

Attached is an Excel document titled, "NC HSEB Judge Assignments". In this document you will find your judging assignment for Saturday. You will also be given this document in your judge packet. The document is organized by first initial and last name (example: K. Kaiser). **If you have trouble finding your name or if I have misscheduled you or if you can no longer volunteer, please let me know ASAP!** I will send an updated version of this document on Friday, January 22nd.

In preparation for judging the NHSEB, I've attached several documents: score sheet, scoring criteria, judge guidelines, competition match format, and an introduction to logical fallacies. The documents can be found on the Parr Center website, under "Judge Documents" (http://parrcenter.unc.edu/high-schoolethics-bowl/north-carolina-high-school-ethics-bowl/). Please be familiar with these documents before the

Judge Training. The training will offer advice on how to fairly evaluate and score the competition—this is strongly encouraged for first time judges! We will provide the relevant material during the competition in your judge packet, so there is no need to print out these documents (unless for personal use).

I've also attached the Ethics Case Set (https://nhseb.unc.edu/files/2013/08/Regional-Ethics-Bowl-Cases-2015-2016.pdf). The competing teams received the cases in September and have thought carefully and perceptively about the moral issues raised by the cases. The questions listed under each case are study questions provided to all the teams. During the competition, the teams may be asked questions that were not provided in advance. Please review the cases in advance of the competition.

Lastly, I've attached a map that circles the competition buildings: Murphey Hall, Bingham Hall, Caldwell Hall, and Carolina Hall. The map also indicates convenient areas for parking with a "P": Cobb Parking Deck, Emerson Drive Parking, and a lot behind Caldwell Hall.

If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me, email or phone call! The support and generosity of all our volunteers does not go unnoticed and is sincerely appreciated by our high school students and the Parr Center for Ethics!!

Thank you!

Katelin Kaiser

Appendix I, Sample High School Registration Form

North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl Registration Form
Name of High School:
Name of Coach/Coaches:
Coach email:
Coach phone number:
Name of Principal:
Principal contact:
Number of Teams:
List students' name per team (first name, last name)*
Team A:
Team B:
Please list any food allergies:
If you or a students has a disability or any additional needs and require assistance to fully participate, please indicate the requirements in this form or contact Katelin Kaiser (kskaiser@unc.edu)
Have you paid the NHSEB registration fee?
Is your team interested in receiving coaching assistance from our Philosophy Outreach program?
*Teams must consist of 3 to 7 students. Only 3 to 5 students can be seated per match.

Appendix I, Sample Competition Schedule

North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl Saturday, January 30, 2016

Schedule:

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. Judge Training

Caldwell 105

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Team Registration and Breakfast

Murphey Hall

8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session (required for all teams and coaches)

Murphey Hall 116

9:00 – 10:05 a.m. **Round 1**

10:20 - 11:25 a.m. **Round 2**

11:40 a.m. – 12:45 p.m **Round 3**

12:45 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch

Art Gallery, Graham Student Union

1:45 - 2:50 p.m. **Round 4**

3:10 – 3:20 p.m. Semifinalist Announced

Murphey Hall

3:35 – 4:40 p.m. **Semifinals**

Murphey Hall

4:55 – 6:00 p.m. **Final**

Murphey Hall 116

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Trophy Presentations & Conclusion

Murphey Hall 116

Headquarters: Murphey 117

Appendix J, Sample Sponsorship Levels

The National High School Ethics Bowl (NHSEB) appreciates your support to continue providing the tools, resources, travel stipends, and outreach for high school ethics bowls across the country. Your financial support or in-kind gifts to local bowls and the National competition is critical to reaching our goal—providing ethics and philosophy opportunities to every student in every school.

Sponsorship Levels:

In-kind Contributor, contributions of goods or services

Community Friend, a gift minimum of \$100.00

Event Sponsor, a gift minimum of \$500.00

Program Sponsor, a gift minimum of \$2,000.00

Ethics Bowl Sustainer, a minimum gift donation of three years

Founding Sponsor, a gift minimum or \$25,000

All sponsors will have their name and/or logo on all high school ethics bowl promotional materials and website. If you are interested in supporting the ethics bowl or inquiring about other opportunities of support, please contact the Parr Center for Ethics.



National High School Ethics Bowl Parr Center for Ethics

207 Caldwell Hall Campus Box #3125 240 East Cameron Avenue Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Tel.: 919-962-2576

Fax: 919-3929

Email: ethicsbowl@unc.edu

Website: nhseb.unc.edu