2027 Middle School Ethics Bowl Structure

Only one case will be discussed during each round. This year, each case has between 2-3 Match Questions. Both teams will present on the same case and predetermined question. Then they will engage in an open dialogue with one another. Teams will know the cases and case questions in advance, and will also be expected to answer judges' questions near the end of the round. During the “final question” portion of the round, each team will be asked to reflect on and share what they learned from discussing the case with one another.

Round Structure: (50 minutes)

- Team Conferral Time (2 minutes)
- Team A Presents (3 minutes)
- Team B Presents (3 minutes)
- Team Conferral Time (2 minutes)
- Open Dialogue (10 minutes with Team A starting)
- Judges’ Conferral Time (5 minutes)
- Judges’ Questions to Team A & Team B (10 minutes)
  - moderator will ensure equal time is given to both teams
- Team Conferral Time (1 minute)
- Final Question for Team A & Team B (1 minute each, with Team B starting)
- Scoring Time (5 minutes)
- Winner Announcement (1 minute)

Team Structure:

Each round includes two teams (with three to five students per team, with up to two alternate students). While each team can have up to seven students, only five students are allowed to present during any given round. Team members can be switched with alternates at the start of a new round, but not during a round itself.

Each round will include three judges and one moderator. Family, friends and other audience members may also sit in the round as audience members if space permits.

Scoring & Award Structure:

Scoring Procedure & Round Winner Calculation

1. Judges will add the scores on their score sheet and will vote for the team that has the greatest total points. If there is a tie in the scores, then the judge's vote will be split between the two teams. After completing their score sheets, judges will pass their score sheets to the moderator who will announce the winner of each round.

2. Teams win the round if they have the majority of votes. It is possible to win and have lower overall scores.

Judge	Team A	Team B	Vote
Judge 1	40	35	Team A
Judge 2	35	36	Team B
Judge 3	37	38	Team B

3. 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 has the two teams tied.

Judge	Team A	Team B	Vote
Judge 1	40	35	Team A
Judge 2	35	35	½ to each team
Judge 3	37	38	Team B

4. Although the point differential is not a factor in determining the winner of an individual match, it is used as a tiebreaker when ranking teams at the end of the seeding rounds. It is therefore important that the teams are scored as accurately and realistically as possible to allow for comparable results in the overall ranking.

5. The moderator will announce the winner of the round and will only reveal the overall result. Individual scoring sheets are not shared during the match, but will be shared with coaches at the end of the competition.

Competition Rankings

At the end of the competition, the following awards will be given:

- First place – winning team
- Second place – finalist team that did not win
- Spirit of the Ethics Bowl -- given to the team that received the highest "open dialogue" score