

# RULES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND NUBC BIOETHICS BOWL (2010)

## PROCEDURAL RULES:

1. In an Ethics Bowl match each team will be questioned by a moderator on a case. On or February 25, 2010 each team will receive fifteen (15) cases. Each of the cases will be 1 to 2 pages in length. The cases on which teams will be asked questions at the Ethics Bowl will be taken from these fifteen cases. The teams will not know in advance which of the cases they will be asked about at the Ethics Bowl or what the questions will be. JUDGES AND MODERATORS WILL ALSO RECEIVE THE FIFTEEN CASES. LIKE THE TEAMS, THEY WILL RECEIVE COPIES OF THE CASES BUT NOT COPIES OF THE QUESTIONS. THE JUDGES AND MODERATORS, LIKE THE TEAMS, WILL NOT BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THE SPECIFIC CASES TEAMS WILL BE ASKED ABOUT AT THE ETHICS BOWL.

2. Teams can be any size but only 5 or fewer can be active participants at any time. Substitutions cannot be made once the initial 5 or fewer are seated and ready for action. Substitutions CANNOT be made once the case is announced. Team members must be undergraduates.

3. During competition books and notes will not be allowed, however, scrap paper to jot down thoughts is permissible. The teams will be given a copy of the case and the question to which they must respond. Teams should wait to use the scratch paper until the case has been announced. Students are permitted to pass notes to one another at any point. At the halfway point in a match teams will be instructed by the moderator to clear notes taken during the first half of the match from the table, and placed out of sight of all participants.

4. The Moderator will indicate the case with which the team that goes first (hereinafter Team 1) will deal, and then read Team 1's question about the case. (The Moderator will not read aloud the entire case).

5. Team 1 will then have two (2) minutes to confer, after which one spokesperson for the team may use up to ten (10) minutes to respond to the Moderator's question. The team has the option of requesting two time notifications from the moderator.

6. The opposing team (hereinafter Team 2) receives one minute to confer, and then may use up to five minutes to comment about Team 1's answer to the Moderator's question. More than one team member may contribute to the commentary, but only one team member may speak at a time. The team has the option of requesting two time notifications from the moderator.

7. Team 1 receives one minute to confer and then may use up to five minutes to

respond to Team 2's commentary. More than one team member may respond to the commentary, but only one team member may speak at a time. The team has the option of requesting two time notifications from the moderator.

8. The judges then may ask questions to Team 1. EACH JUDGE MAY ASK NO MORE THAN ONE QUESTION WITH A BRIEF FOLLOW-UP QUESTION. THE ENTIRE PERIOD FOR JUDGES QUESTIONS SHALL LAST NO MORE THAN TEN (10) MINUTES. Before asking questions the judges may confer with one another to discuss briefly areas that they want to cover during the question period. Different team members may respond to the questions of different judges. Teams may huddle briefly to discuss their answers to the judges' questions.

9. The judges will evaluate Team 1 and Team 2 on score sheets provided to them (see scoring rules below). AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THE JUDGES WILL NOT ANNOUNCE TO THE TEAMS THE SCORES THEY HAVE GIVEN THEM.

10. Team 1 and Team 2 will reverse roles for a second round with a different case.

11. At the close of the second round the Moderator will ask the judges to announce the teams' scores for the match (see scoring rules below).

12. The team with the highest total number of points is the winner of the match.

## SCORING RULES

1. Judges shall evaluate the responses of teams solely in terms of the following criteria:

Clarity and Intelligibility - Was the presentation clear and systematic? Regardless of whether or not you agree with the conclusion, did the team give a coherent argument in a clear and succinct manner?

Avoidance of Ethical Irrelevance: Did the team avoid ethically irrelevant issues? Or was the team preoccupied with issues that are not ethically relevant or are of minor ethical relevance to the case?

Identification and Discussion of Central Ethical Dimensions: Did the team's presentation clearly identify and thoroughly discuss the central ethical dimensions of the case?

Deliberative Thoughtfulness: Did the team's presentation indicate both awareness and thoughtful consideration of different viewpoints, including especially those that would loom large in the reasoning of individuals who disagree with the team's position?

2. The judges will score each team as follows:

0-40 for a team's answer to the Moderator's question (40 best); In evaluating a team's answer the judges will give the team a score of 0-10 relative to each of the four evaluation criteria indicated above and total the sum.

0-10 for the opposing team's commentary (10 best);

0-10 for the response to the opposing team's commentary, and for the response to the judges questions, by the team that answered the Moderator's question (10 best).

Both in evaluating a team's commentary, and the other team's response to the commentary, the judges will take into account the four evaluation criteria indicated above, but give the teams an overall score, rather than a separate point score relative to each of the criteria.

3. The top four teams in the competition will be determined in the following way  
First half of the competition:

Teams will be ranked based on a) the number of wins, followed by b) the number of ties, followed by c) point differential. Thus, all teams with three wins will rank ahead of all teams with two wins. All teams with two wins will rank ahead of all teams with one win. Within rankings, a team with more ties ranks above a team with fewer ties. Finally, for teams with the same number of wins and ties, a team with a higher point differential would rank above a team with a lower point differential.

For example:

TEAM	WINS	TIES	POINTS	RANK
School R	3	0	12	1st
School M	3	0	10	2nd
School B	2	1	15	3rd
School S	2	0	-8	4th
School H	1	2	-6	5th

Note, for example that School B has a greater point differential than School M, and School H has a lower negative point differential than School S. Nonetheless, M ranks ahead of B because it has more wins, and, likewise, S ranks ahead of H.

**Point differentials:** Point differentials are the margin of victory or loss. A point differential for each match is determined by taking the team's total points and subtracting the other team's total. Note that point differentials will be negative in the case of a loss. At the end of the morning competition the point differential for a team is simply the sum of the point differentials for that team in each of its three

morning matches.

The 4 teams with the highest ranking based on the first four rounds of the competition will enter the evening competition.

Ties at the end of the first four rounds of the competition

a. If 2 teams have the same ranking then if they played against each other during the three rounds of play, whoever won that competition will win gain the higher ranking.

b. The method in number 1) above will also apply to a 3 (or more) way tie in ranking, just in case all teams played each other and transitivity holds (e.g. A beat B, B beat C, but C did not beat A).

c. In case numbers 1) and 2) do not determine a winner, then raw points will be used to determine a winner.

d. Finally, if 1-3 above fail, an impartial random process will determine the final outcome between the teams. In case 2 teams are still tied, a coin toss will be used. If more than 2 teams still remain, the high card drawn from a standard deck of playing cards will decide. This process will be repeated until the outcome is decided.

4. The winner of the Ethics Bowl, among the top ten teams, will be determined as follows:

Saturday Competition

The top 4 teams will face each other during the evening in 2 elimination matches.

Judges will use the same numerical scoring guidelines as they did during the first half of the competition.

Ties during quarterfinal or semifinal matches

In case of a tie in a quarterfinal or semifinal match

1) if the two teams have faced each other in the morning matches, the winner of that match wins the tie-break

or else 2) the team with the most wins in the first four rounds wins the tie-break

or else 3) the team with the most ties in the first four rounds wins the tie-break

or else 4) the team with the most points in the first four rounds wins the tie-break

or else 5) a coin toss decides the winner of the tie-break

In the case of a tie in the final round, the two finalists will be declared co-winners of the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl.