Each 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)[[1]](#footnote-1) 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.

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.

The judges will score each team as follows:

* 1-15 for a team’s Presentation to the Moderator’s case question (15 best). In evaluating a team’s answer to the moderator’s question, the judges will give the team a score of 1-5 on each of the three evaluation criteria on the score sheet:
  + Did the presentation clearly and systematically address the question asked?
  + Did the presentation identify and thoroughly discuss the central moral dimensions of the case, raised by the question asked?
  + Did the presentation indicate both awareness and thoughtful consideration of different viewpoints, including those that would loom large in the reasoning of individuals who disagree?
* 1-10 for the opposing team’s Commentary (10 best)
* 1-10 for the presenting team’s Response to the opposing team’s commentary (10 best)
* 1-20 for the presenting team’s Responses to the Judges’ Questions (20 best)
* At the end of the entire round, 1-5 for each team’s display of respectful dialogue (5 best)

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

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). 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 ½ 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.

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.

1. *At the Nationals, the Presentation Period has expanded to six minutes in order to provide teams with more time due to the high quality of preparation acknowledged at previous Nationals. Regional Organizers are not required to adopt the extra minute in the Presentation Period at their competition, but need to communicate to teams about any similarities or differences in competition match format to minimize any confusion.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)