

**compiled by Joel Turnbull - Cornerstone College SA 29/5/20**

## MATCH FORMAT



- Take a whole-team position on the question – agree with each other.
- Form arguments for your position.
- Consider alternative perspectives, but show why your position is better.
- Take into consideration all relevant ethical theories and considerations – not just the ones you like.
- You may divide up your presentation however you like: one person might speak the whole time, or you could divide up into different roles – none of this will directly affect your score.
- Make sure your presentation is clear and systematic – don't ramble on.
- Discuss the morality of the case – other considerations, such as legality, are not strictly relevant to this context.
- Make sure you answer the question that you are given on the day, rather than talking generally about the case.

# Tips for the Ethics Olympiad

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## **Commentary (3 minutes, out of 10 points)**

- Above all: identify and focus on team A's main points as are relevant to the case, not side issues.
- Re-cap team A's position, pointing out areas of agreement and disagreement with your own team.
- Provide objections to arguments, or highlight potential objections if you don't actually disagree.
- Build on team A's arguments – e.g., by providing further support for them, by exploring their implications/consequences, etc.
- Point out areas in team A's presentation that require further clarification.
- Point out any considerations that team A did not take.
- Address connections to the question (especially if they didn't actually answer it).
- Ask for team A's take on alternative arguments that they didn't consider.
- Bring it back to the heart of the issue, rather than getting caught up in side-issues.
- Ask questions of team A – e.g., anything you didn't understand.

## **Response to commentary (3 minutes, out of 15 points)**

- Directly address the commentary. You may critique it, but do so kindly. Thank them.
- Focus on the most important parts of the commentary – there is no obligation to address everything.
- You may or may not change your position – whichever is most appropriate, given the commentary given.
  - If you are going to dig in your heels and stick to your guns, give excellent reasons why.
  - If you are going to completely flip to the other side of the argument following team B's commentary, give excellent reasons why.

## **Judges' questioning (10 minutes, out of 15 points)**

- Allow time for each judge to ask at least one question – don't waffle on for too long.
- Take your time: you may take a few moments to confer before answering a judge's question.
- Don't be defensive: the purpose of this event is to work on reasonable responses to ethically messy cases, so critical questioning is vital. Remain calm and rational.

## **Respectful dialogue (ongoing, out of 5 points)**

- Be polite – take a little time to say thanks to the judges, opponents, moderator, etc. when appropriate. But don't overdo it!
- Show kindness to your teammates, your opponents, the judges, the moderator, etc.
- Don't accuse people who disagree with you of being bad people; simply show, through solid argumentation, that your position is more reasonable.
- Don't talk while someone else is talking. You may pass notes, but do so silently.