IEEE Region 3 SoutheastCon Student Ethics Competition

Guidelines

1. About the Competition

The Region 3 Student Ethics Competition is held annually at SoutheastCon, and is sponsored by the IEEE Ethics and Member Conduct Committee. The competition was developed for use at IEEE Regional student events to encourage the study and awareness of professional ethics by IEEE Student Members (http://www.ieee.org/about/ethics/competition.html).

1.1. Overview

The contest includes a presentation and defense of a case analysis by teams of two or three students. The 2020 Region 3 Student Ethics Competition will include a qualification round open to all Region 3 student branches, followed by the final round in which the top eight teams from the qualification round compete. Note the requirement that each team must provide a judge in the qualification round, as described below.

Questions may be submitted to Rachel.L.Wilson@ieee.org.

1.2. Purpose/Objectives

The purpose of the competition is to promote the study and awareness of professional ethics among IEEE Student Members.

1.3. Format

The competition is structured in two main rounds. In the Qualification Round, teams of two or three students complete an ethics scenario within 45 minutes and submit a 500-word written statement. Each team must provide a qualification round judge who scores other teams' submissions. The top eight teams advance to the Final Round, where they receive a new scenario and present their findings to a panel of professional IEEE members.

2. Rules and Regulations

2.1. Eligibility

- All participants (competitors and qualification round judges) must be registered for SoutheastCon 2024.

- All participants (competitors and qualification round judges) must register for the Student Ethics Competition at: https://attend.ieee.org/southeastcon-2024/

- All competitors must be student members or graduate student members of IEEE in Region 3 at the time of the competition.

- Only one team is allowed per Region 3 student branch.

2.2. Guidelines

2.2.1. Qualification Round

All student teams that have (1) registered for the competition by the deadline and (2) registered for the conference will compete in the qualification round. Teams shall consist of two or three students and will be provided a copy of the IEEE Code of Ethics for the competition.
(http://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/governance/p7-8.html).

2.2. Guidelines

2.2.2. Team Disqualification

A team will be disqualified from the competition if

(1) the team qualification round judge is not present for training or scoring

(2) any competitor is not an IEEE member

(3) a student branch enters more than one team (all teams entered are disqualified)

(4) a team uses electronic communication while sequestered

(5) a sequestration area violation such as arriving late, leaving early, or allowing non-team members in the area

(6) any perceived unethical behavior

The Head Judge may solicit input from the Regional Student Activities Committee for any disqualification decision.

2.3. Submission Requirements

- Each team will complete a brief ethics scenario within a 45 minute timeframe and will submit a written statement of 500 words or less, which must be typed and submitted electronically. Teams will be sequestered.

- Each student team must provide a qualification round judge according to the regulations defined in section 2.5.1 below.

- Teams are to supply a laptop to compile their response and will be sequestered for the duration of the competition.

2.4. Timeline

Sample Timeline is as below.

- Friday, March 6th, 2024: Registration deadline.

- Friday, March 13th, 2024: Student Ethics Competition Qualification Round at SoutheastCon.

- Saturday, March 14th, 2024: Student Ethics Competition Final Round at SoutheastCon.

2.5. Judging Criteria

2.5.1. Qualification Round

Judges Nominations & Training

Each team shall provide one qualification round judge, who must be an IEEE member (of any grade), registered as a judge for the student ethics competition by the deadline, and registered for SoutheastCon 2020. Note that the qualification round judge may be a student, a branch counselor, a faculty member, a section member, etc.

During the qualification round, the judges will receive training including the ethical issues in the given ethics scenario, and scoring recommendations regarding

(1) ethical issue identification

(2) ethical issue explanation

(3) recommendations on resolution

(4) explanation of issue resolution

(5) overall expression

2.5.1. Qualification Round

Judging Process

Each judge will score a subset of the total number of submitted statements, with no knowledge of school affiliation for the statements to be scored. Judges will not score the statement submitted by their student team. In the case of a three student team, it is allowable to use one student as the qualification round judge, with the two remaining students forming the qualification round team. Should such a team advance to the final round of the competition, all three students are allowed to compete.

Each statement submitted by teams in the qualification round will be scored by multiple judges.

The top eight teams will advance to the final round. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken by the Head Judge of the Student Ethics Competition. Advancing teams will be notified via the methods shared in the preliminary round.

The qualification round grading rubric is as below.

Category	Category Summary: The statement should...	Possible Points	Earned Points
Case facts	...restate relevant facts appropriate to the ethical issue (s) displayed in the scene.	5	
Question (s)	...identification of the ethical question (s) that arise from the scene.	10	
References	...identify the relevant sections from the IEEE Code of Ethics. These should correlate to the ethical questions.	10	
Discussion	...provide a complete analysis of the scene with logic and reasoning. This section discusses why the identified ethical question (s) are issues.	40	
Recommendations	...detail a plan to go about resolving the ethical issue (s). The plan should be reasonable, humane, and appropriate to the scene. These should also follow the "Guidelines for Engineers Dissenting on Ethical Grounds" as outlined in the "Student Ethics Competition Guidelines & Requirements".	20	
Organization & Clear Conclusion	...be well written, easy to follow, and the conclusion should be clearly stated.	10	
Communication Effectiveness	...be in proper grammar, tone, well written, easy to follow	5	
Deductions	5 points for every 20 words over the allotted amount --		
		TOTAL	**100**
		RANK	

2.5.2. Final Round

In this round of competition, the advancing teams will be given a new scenario and expected to create and present their findings to a panel of professional IEEE members. The format and grading may be found at this link: https://www.ieee.org/about/ethics/competition.html

3. Logistics

3.1. Registration Process

Participants must register for SoutheastCon and the Student Ethics Competition by the deadlines.

3.2. Location

The competition will be held on-site at the SoutheastCon.

3.3. Requirements

Teams are responsible for supplying their own laptops.

3.4. Awards

Winners will be announced during the IEEE Region 3 SoutheastCon Awards Ceremony.

Prizes and awards details are provided during the event.

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