

Illinois High School Scholastic Bowl  
Coaches Association  
**Ethical Standards for Officials**

*Moderators have an ethical responsibility not only to uphold the rules, but to assure that they are applied in a fair manner. Moderators must be well-versed in the rules, but should not assume that they know every detail or nuance of their application. It is recommended that they have the most up-to-date copy of the relevant rules document (and case manual, if applicable) at hand for reference during matches.*

- A. It is expected that a moderator accept the concurrent opinion of two opposing coaches (typically, in regard to the correct answer to a question) unless there is a compelling reason to not do so.
- B. Except in extreme circumstances, moderators are not to eject a player or coach unless a warning has been issued previously.
- C. A moderator should request that (s)he be replaced when his/her presence as an official might be considered a conflict of interest, provided that there is another competent moderator available. If a conflict of interest possibly exists, and the situation cannot be addressed by using another available reader, the moderator should alert the coaches to the situation before the match begins.
- D. Moderators should always address coaches and players politely and with respect, not as a “boss” addressing an underling.
- E. Only if (1) both teams cannot agree, and (2) there is a lack of evidence to the contrary, and (3) the moderator does not know the topic, and (4) there is no way to check with reliable sources, other said sources have proven inconclusive, should a moderator use “We’ll go with the answer on the page” as a way to resolve a protest.