

# PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON

## RULES and REGULATIONS



REVISED - September 16, 2015

### Eligibility Requirements

1. Team members must be enrolled in grade levels nine (9) through twelve (12) or equivalent non-traditional school program ranking. *Students can only participate in a maximum of four high school state Envirothon events.*
2. Each team or team member shall participate in only one county event per school year.
3. All members on a team must represent the same educational unit (public, private, parochial, non-traditional school).

### Team Requirements

4. County conservation districts or the PA Envirothon Board approved sponsoring organization must register a team of exactly five (5) members and one (1) to two (2) advisors/chaperones (non-student adult, 20 years or older) in order to compete in the state level event.

Each team is encouraged to arrange for a male to advise/chaperone male team members and a female to advise/chaperone female team members. For the purpose of housing, male and female team members may be assigned to different floors and/or buildings.

5. Each team must start the state competition with five (5) team members. The team can finish with four (4) and no fewer than four (4) members. The start of the state competition is defined as when each team completes the official onsite registration.
6. Substitution requirements:
  - a. Absolutely no substitutions can be made after the start of the state competition.
  - b. In the event that a team chosen to attend the Pennsylvania State Envirothon cannot send five (5) original team members that competed together at the county level, the advisor, with approval of the county conservation district or the PA Envirothon Board approved sponsoring organization, is permitted to make substitutions for one (1) or two (2) of the original five (5) team members only. Each team must be made up of at least three (3) members of the original team and no more than five (5) total members. All members and substitutions must represent the same educational unit and have competed in the same county event.
  - c. In the event that no substitutes can be found, a team may start and participate with four (4) members as exhibition only. Teams competing as exhibition only will not be eligible for ranking or prizes.
  - d. In the event a county's winning team cannot attend the state event, the next highest scoring county team may be sent in its place as long as the Pennsylvania Rules are met and at the discretion of the county conservation district or the PA Envirothon Board approved sponsoring organization. The county conservation district's or a PA Envirothon Board approved sponsoring organization's decision is final.
7. Non-traditional schools (home, cyber, and charter schools) may form their own team specifically for participation in the Pennsylvania Envirothon, and they must petition a county conservation district or a PA Envirothon Board approved sponsoring organization for recognition to participate in an Envirothon event. All team members must participate in the same county event in order to participate at the state level. How non-traditional school teams are organized to participate in a county Envirothon event is at the discretion of a county conservation district or a PA Envirothon Board approved sponsoring organization.

### Competition Regulations

8. For liability reasons only registered participants (team members and advisors/chaperones) are permitted on the competition/event site.
9. Each county team will rotate AS A TEAM through the testing stations (Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soil Land Use, Wildlife, Current Issue, and Discovery).

10. Advisors/chaperones are not permitted on or near the testing circuit during the event. Advisors/chaperones will be given an opportunity to tour the testing stations during the official advisor tour.
11. Any team, team member, team advisor, or team chaperone discovered on, near, or around the testing circuit before the competition begins shall be subject to disqualification.
12. All oral component and test scores are final. Tests and scoring materials will remain the property of the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors.
13. Envirothon members shall only use reference and resource materials provided by agency or Envirothon representatives at the stations. No personal reference or resource materials are allowed on the testing circuit.
14. Identification tags provided must be worn by all team members and advisors/chaperones at all times during the event.
15. No electronic or battery operated devices (i.e., ipods, cell phones, pagers, calculators, computers, camcorders, cameras, or taping devices, etc.) are allowed during the oral component preparation and presentations or on the testing circuit. Media personnel (press, camera crew, and agency personnel) will be provided, in advance, with an identification badge.
16. No backpacks or similar cases shall be taken to the oral component preparation and presentation or on the testing circuit. A small device for carrying personal items, (i.e. lip balm, medications, sunscreen, etc.) may be allowed.
17. The winning team at the Pennsylvania Envirothon is the team with the highest cumulative score, which includes scores from the five testing stations and the oral component. In the event an oral component is held, it will be one-sixth of the total score.
  - a. Station tiebreakers – In the event of a tie at any given station, predetermined tie breaking question(s) will determine the winner of that station.
  - b. Overall Score tiebreakers – In the case of an overall tie, the Forestry test score will determine the placement for the final scores in the Envirothon.
18. English shall be designated the official language of the Pennsylvania Envirothon. All written (field) tests and oral presentation scenarios shall be in English.
19. No pets of any kind may be brought on the site of the Pennsylvania Envirothon.

### **Pennsylvania's Representative to the North American Envirothon regulations**

20. In the event Pennsylvania's winning team from the state level competition cannot attend the North American Envirothon, the next highest scoring team may be sent in its place.
21. The Pennsylvania Envirothon must register a team of five (5) members and one (1) or two (2) advisors/chaperones to compete in the North American Envirothon.

The North American Envirothon rules require a mixed gender team to have a male and a female advisor/chaperone, no exception.

### **Concluding Rules and Regulations**

22. Any team involved with any infraction of the rules or inconsistencies shall be subject to disqualification. If any rule is suspected of being violated, the infraction shall be reported to the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors for action.
23. The Pennsylvania Envirothon Rules are subject to change by the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors. Any and all changes will be announced before the competition begins.
24. Any exception must be considered by the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors and all decisions made by the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors are final.