

## PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON

### Oral Presentation Component Rules and Guidelines

The oral presentation component is mandatory, and all teams participating at the Pennsylvania Envirothon State Competition are required to participate. The oral presentation component is scored separately from the field testing exams. The oral presentation score is one-sixth of the overall score when combined with the field test scores. A panel of five (5) judges score each team's oral component presentation during and directly after the presentation is given. To calculate each team's oral presentation component score, each of the five judges' scores are tallied. Of the five scores awarded by the judges, the highest score and the lowest score are dropped, and the remaining three scores are averaged. This average is the overall team oral presentation score. This overall oral presentation score is then combined with the field test scores to determine a team's overall Envirothon score.

The problem solving oral presentation component is conducted as follows:

1. The **scenario** for the oral presentation is **posted** to the Pennsylvania Envirothon website ([www.envirothonpa.org](http://www.envirothonpa.org)) Station Training – Oral Component page on **Monday, May 13, 2019**. It is also emailed to all county Envirothon coordinators on this day. This provides most teams with enough time to prepare their presentations.
2. **Teachers/coaches should NOT prepare their team's presentation, but only provide general guidance, such as review the rubric and clarify the scenario.** Questions about the content of the scenario will not be answered by the Pennsylvania Envirothon (i.e. interpret the scenario on your own).
3. The oral presentation component takes place during the first day of the event – Tuesday, May 21, 2019. Teams should plan to register at least one hour and fifteen minutes prior to their assigned presentation time.
4. A time schedule is included with the registration packet. Teams must show up for their scheduled time. If there is a conflict with this time, the team must contact the Pennsylvania. (For late arriving teams at the competition, please see "Oral Component Policy for Late Arriving Teams.")
5. Each team member **may bring his/her prepared note cards** (no larger than 4" x 6") for the presentation and may use them during preparation time. Other items brought from school/home (i.e., resources, props, notes, etc.) **may NOT** be taken into the preparation room.
6. Each team has one (1) hour prior to their assigned presentation time to practice its presentation and to prepare props/visuals for use during its presentation. Visit the Pennsylvania Envirothon website ([www.envirothonpa.org](http://www.envirothonpa.org)) Station Training – Oral Component page for a complete listing of items each team receives. When going into the preparation room, teams are permitted to use only the materials provided by the Envirothon to prepare any props/visuals they would like to use during their presentations. Teams are not permitted to use or bring any other materials except for their notecards.  
  
Teams are permitted to carry their props/visuals and notecards from the preparation room to the presentation room.
7. **No electronic devices are allowed during ANY part of the oral component (prep and/or presentation).**
8. Five minutes before the team's assigned presentation time, the team is escorted to its presentation room. (Team teachers/coaches are permitted to view their respective team's presentation with the team members' approval.)
9. Each team has 10 minutes for its presentation before a panel of five – seven judges. The judges then have up to 10 minutes to ask questions. Presentations must be at least five (5) minutes long but no longer than 10 minutes.
10. Team members are required to wear appropriate clothing that does **NOT** identify their school or county origin.

**PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON**  
**Oral Component Policy for Late Arriving Teams**

The Pennsylvania Envirothon understands that due to unforeseen circumstances a team may be delayed in arriving to the Oral Component portion of the competition. Examples of unforeseen circumstances may include but are not limited to car trouble, severe weather, or sick student/coach. When possible, the Pennsylvania Envirothon will do its best to accommodate a team arriving late to the competition, though this will not always be possible. **Any decision of the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board regarding accommodations for participation in the oral component is final.**

In the event there are unforeseen circumstances which may result in arrival after the start of its scheduled Oral Component Preparation time, in order to be considered for an accommodation the team coach must:

1. Contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon Executive Director by phone at 814.977.2400 as soon as possible with an estimated time of arrival (ETA).
2. Stay in contact with the Executive Director indicating any changes in the team's situation or estimated ETA.
3. Arrive at team registration with the full team no later than the end of the final round of scheduled oral presentations.\* For example, if the final round of presentations is scheduled to end at 4:50 p.m., all team members must be on site by this time.

If the above three requirements are met, then the Pennsylvania Envirothon will attempt to accommodate teams who arrive after their scheduled preparation time by:

1. Allowing teams to be placed into an existing vacant presentation time slot in the schedule if possible; OR
2. Identifying a panel of judges willing to add another team at the conclusion of their established judging schedule.

If a team of judges is available, the team will be given the same amount of preparation and presentation time as the rest of the teams.

In fairness to all teams the Pennsylvania Envirothon will only use a team of judges that has judged other presentations together during the day. We will not use individual judges from different judging teams to create a new team of judges. The Pennsylvania Envirothon may use a substitute timekeeper if necessary.

In fairness to all volunteers, the Pennsylvania Envirothon will ask judges to stay no later than 6:30 p.m.

*\*In the event a team arrives past the end of the final round of scheduled presentations, the team will not be permitted to present for the Oral Component. However, the team will be permitted to participate in the station testing the following day as an exhibition team.*

*Adopted: January 22, 2019*