

PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON RULES and REGULATIONS

REVISED - September 13, 2019



Eligibility Requirements

1. Team members must be enrolled in grade levels nine (9) through twelve (12) or in an 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) but no fewer than four (4) members. The start of the state competition is defined as the completion of the team's 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 so long as the Pennsylvania Rules are met, and that team meets the requirements 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 and Land Use, Wildlife, Current Issue, and Discovering Energy [non-testing station]).
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. All team members and advisors/chaperones must wear Envirothon provided identification tags 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 container for carrying personal items, (i.e. lip balm, medications, sunscreen, etc.) is 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. The oral component 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.

Oral Presentation Component

The problem-solving oral presentation component is conducted as follows:

20. The scenario for the oral presentation is posted to the Pennsylvania Envirothon Station Training – Oral Component website page on the Monday prior to the competition. It is also emailed to all county Envirothon coordinators on this day.
21. Advisors shall NOT prepare their team's presentation, but may provide general guidance, such as review the rubric and clarify the scenario. Questions about the content of the scenario will not be answered by representatives of the Pennsylvania Envirothon (i.e., interpret the scenario on your own).
22. The oral presentation component takes place during the first day of the competition. Teams should plan to register at least one hour and fifteen minutes prior to their assigned presentation time.

23. A time schedule is included with the registration packet. Teams must arrive at their scheduled time. If there is a conflict with this time, the team must contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon. (For late arriving teams to the competition, please refer to the “Oral Component Policy for Late Arriving Teams” found on page 4.)
24. Each team member may bring his/her prepared note cards (no larger than 4” x 6”) and may use them during the preparation time and for the presentation. Other items brought from school/home (i.e., resources, props, notes, etc.) may not be taken into the preparation or presentation rooms.
25. Each team has one (1) hour prior to its assigned presentation time to practice its presentation and to prepare props/visuals for use during its presentation. Visit the Pennsylvania Envirothon Station Training – Oral Component website page for a complete listing of items each team will receive. When going into the preparation room, teams are permitted to use only their prepared notecards and the materials provided by the Envirothon to prepare any props/visuals required for their presentation.

Teams are permitted to carry their props/visuals and notecards from their preparation room to their presentation room.
26. No electronic devices are allowed during ANY part of the oral component (preparation and/or presentation).
27. Five minutes before the team’s assigned presentation time, the team is escorted to its presentation room. (Team advisors are permitted to view their respective team’s presentation with the team members’ approval.)
28. 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.
29. Team members are required to wear appropriate clothing that does NOT identify the origin of their school or county.

Pennsylvania’s Representative to the NCF- Envirothon regulations

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

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

Concluding Rules and Regulations

32. 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.
33. 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.
34. 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.

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/advisor. 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 advisor 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 location 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