

# OHIO ENVIROTHON

## Rules and Regulations

Revised January 2024

1. Students currently in grades 9 through 12 or equivalent home school ranking when Area Envirothons are held are eligible to participate in the Envirothon. Graduating seniors on winning teams may participate in the Ohio Envirothon and NCF-Envirothon during the summer following Area competitions.
2. Each team will consist of five team members. **TEAMS MUST REGISTER AND COMPETE WITH 5 TEAM MEMBERS.** All team members must be students from the same school, or the same home school association. All teams advancing to the Ohio Envirothon will be certified by their affiliated Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).
3. In the event that multiple teams from the same school qualify at their Area Envirothon, a maximum of two teams per school are permitted to attend the Ohio Envirothon.
4. The four top-scoring teams from each of the five Area Envirothons will be eligible to compete in the Ohio Envirothon. In the event that any of the top four teams cannot advance to the Ohio Envirothon, the team(s) with the next highest score(s) will be eligible to compete. Teams unable to compete at the Ohio Envirothon must notify their affiliated SWCD within seven calendar days following their area competition. That district must in turn contact the OEC area representative and host chair within 24 hours of notification. Area Host chairpersons or OEC area representatives are responsible for identifying the next eligible team and coordinating with their affiliated SWCD to ensure registration forms are submitted.
5. Up to three alternate team members may substitute for regular team members in the Ohio Envirothon if alternates meet the following criteria:
  - a. Must be from the same school as the original competing team.
  - b. Must have been registered at their Area competition (on the official registration forms provided by the Ohio Envirothon Committee (OEC) for Area and Ohio Envirothons). The alternate to be substituted must either be listed on the registration form of the original winning team OR listed as a team member or alternate on another team from the same school that competed at the Area competition.

Only five team members may attend the competition. Alternates not substituting for a regular team member may not attend the competition. Non-emergency substitutions cannot be made after the deadline unless prior approval from the OEC.

6. Each Area Envirothon committee will be required to submit to the OEC copies of the original Area Envirothon registration forms for the four teams advancing to the Ohio Envirothon, as well as team registrations from other teams competing from those same schools. This is to help the Ohio Envirothon Host Area confirm that the team members and alternates listed on the Ohio Envirothon registration form are eligible to compete.
7. To be eligible for placings and prizes, teams must compete with FIVE members. In the event of a last-minute family or medical emergency that prevents a member of the original team from

attending the competition, thus reducing team size to four members, the advisor or affiliated SWCD must notify the OEC immediately. The committee will then certify the legitimacy of the emergency and confirm if the team of four is eligible to compete for placings or prizes. There is no guarantee that a four-member team will be able to compete for placings or prizes at the State event regardless of circumstance

8. A \$100.00 non-refundable registration fee is required of all participating teams. This registration fee, along with neatly printed or typed registration and medical forms, must be received by the announced deadline. Late or illegible registration forms may be rejected.
9. It is advised that an SWCD representative accompany winning team(s) from their county to the Ohio Envirothon.
10. Each team must be accompanied by an adult team advisor(s) 21 years of age or older. Each team is encouraged to arrange for an adult male to chaperone male team members and an adult female to chaperone female team members. Team members and chaperones/advisors are required to stay on-site.
11. The field test will consist of four ecosystem stations lasting 40-50 minutes. Each of the field tests will constitute 1/6th of the total score.
12. All materials/equipment needed for the field-testing portion of the Ohio Envirothon will be provided by the OEC. Students are not to be in the possession of any material/equipment other than those provided on-site. The advisor or coach shall not assist the team during the competition.
13. Resource specialists involved in preparations for Ohio Envirothon testing and/or oral presentation may provide information, materials, or other assistance pertaining to the Ohio Envirothon field testing and/or oral presentation only to those individuals designated by the OEC.
14. Teams competing at the Ohio Envirothon will be provided a copy of the test and answer key in the "post competition packet". (All original team tests and answers will remain the property of the Ohio Envirothon Committee. Once a team hands in the test at the site it becomes the property of the Ohio Envirothon Committee).
15. The oral team presentation will be 5 minutes in length followed by a question and answer period. All five team members must be in attendance during the oral presentation or the team will be considered ineligible for awards. Guidelines for the oral presentation will be provided to teams prior to the competition.
16. The oral presentation score will be based on 200 possible points. Each team will have three separate scores (one from each judge), which will be averaged for the final score. In the case that a judge is unable to participate, the Ohio Envirothon Committee will appoint someone to fill this opening.
17. The following violations will not be tolerated during the Ohio Envirothon:
  - a. Stealing of, or vandalism to, personal, private or public property.

- b. Cheating in any form.
  - c. Possession and/or use of tobacco, alcohol or controlled substances, weapons, including firearms or knives.
  - d. Students are not permitted to leave early from the competition without advisor and/or parental notification to the host and written consent from members of the OEC committee.
18. A Grievance Committee of three persons will be appointed and identified prior to the Ohio Envirothon to decide on actions to be taken should any of the above stated violations occur. Because students compete in the Ohio Envirothon as a team, the actions of one or more members of a team may be considered to be the actions of the team as a whole.
19. Grievances related to Ohio Envirothon procedures must be submitted to the Grievance Committee within a time period announced prior to the event. The decisions of the Grievance Committee are final. See the Ohio Envirothon Grievance Policy for more details.
20. Any infraction of the Rules and Regulations of the Ohio Envirothon may result in disqualification and dismissal from the event and host site, other consequences include but are not limited to:
- a. An Envirothon team may be disqualified from advancing to the next level of competition.
  - b. A school may be barred from Ohio Envirothon competitions for a period of time, depending on the nature and severity of the incident.
  - c. A school or individual may be billed for damages.
21. Tiebreaker procedures will be announced prior to the beginning of the competition. The winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative point total at the end of the four testing stations and presentation event. The following Tie- breaker (s) will be utilized: Oral Presentation followed by a randomly selected order of ecostations announced at the start of the competition.
22. Awards for the Ohio Envirothon will be announced prior to each year's event.
23. The winning team at the Ohio Envirothon will represent Ohio in the NCF- Envirothon competition. In the event that the winning team cannot represent Ohio at the NCF- Envirothon, the second-place team will represent Ohio, and so forth.
24. Rules and regulations of the Ohio Envirothon are subject to change by the Ohio Envirothon Committee. Any and all changes will be provided to all teams and advisors.