

## 2023 Area II Envirothon Rules and Regulations

1. Team members must be registered in grades 9–12 or equivalent homeschool ranking at the time of the Envirothon. Except for teams from joint vocational schools or homeschool, team members may not be drawn from different schools.
2. Teams will consist of a minimum of five team members. Only five member teams will be eligible to go on to State competition. If a three or four-member team places at the Area Envirothon, they may compete at the state competition only if they have 5 members registered at the Area competition. **Teams can participate however not place if they have less than five team members at the day of event.**
3. Alternate team members may substitute for regular team members if properly registered. All alternates must be registered properly at the Area level to be permitted to fill in at the State level. Alternates may not attend the competition if they are not needed on the team the day of the contest. A team the day of the competition can only consist of team members and/or alternates listed on the original registration form. The team, if not properly registered, will be able to participate, however not advance, if they place in the top 5 teams.
4. Each school is permitted to send a maximum of three teams to the Area Envirothon.
5. No more than two teams from any one school can advance to the state competition. This is true even if three teams from one school place within the top four at the area competition.
6. Teams must be accompanied to any Envirothon competition by an adult (21 years of age minimum) advisor or SWCD representative. The advisor may accompany their team to the Envirothon but shall not accompany or assist the team during the testing by answering questions, either directly or indirectly.
7. The Envirothon shall consist of five competitive tests based on soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues ecostations consisting of 25–30 minutes each.

8. Team members are not to be in possession of bags, backpacks or electronic devices including, but not limited to, cell phones, cameras, tablets, video cameras, music players, etc. during the competition (defined as the time from when the orientation begins at the orientation site until all testing is completed AND teams return back to the orientation site for lunch). Although it is highly discouraged for students to bring electronic devices, bags or back packs with them to the event, advisors will be responsible to collect and store all electronic devices, bags or backpacks of students during the competition.
9. If a participant must have medication or personal supplies available to them during the event, he/she should notify their Team Buddy/Group Leader prior to departing the orientation site for testing.
10. The following violations will not be tolerated during the 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
  - d. Possession and/or use of any vaping supplies/products
  - e. Alcoholic beverages, illegal or illicit drugs
  - f. Weapons; including firearms and knives
11. All materials/equipment needed will be provided by the Area Envirothon Committee. Students may only be in possession of supplied materials, pencils and clipboard.
12. The top four scoring teams from each of the five Area Envirothon competitions will be eligible and expected to compete in the State Envirothon. In the event that any of the top four teams cannot advance to 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 five calendar days following the area competition. The district must in turn contact the area chairperson within 24 hours of notification. Area chairpersons are responsible for identifying the next eligible team and coordinating with their affiliated SWCD to ensure registration forms are submitted. In the event that the winning team(s) cannot represent their Area or State at the next higher level of competition, the team with the next highest score will be eligible to compete.

13. The Area II Envirothon Committee will provide monetary assistance to each winning team through local sponsorship. If the obligation of competing at the state competition is not met, the team then forfeits all rights to any assistance monies.
14. Judge's decisions are final on all events. Any questions regarding decisions must be directed to the Grievance Committee of Tom Holmes, Katie Nainiger, and Natalie Gertz-Young who will be identified prior to the testing and will have a decision regarding any grievance within 30 minutes following completion of the final test. Claims registered subsequent to the event will not be considered. Any violation of these rules and regulations as witnessed by an Envirothon official (i.e. traveling monitors, station monitors, resource personnel, etc.) may result in team disqualification.
  - a. An Envirothon team may be disqualified from advancing to the next level of competition.
  - b. A school may be barred from the Area Envirothon competition for a period of time, depending on the nature and severity of the incident.
  - c. A school or individual may be billed for damages.
15. Registration forms and release forms must be typed or neatly printed and received by the announced deadline. **All late or illegible registration forms will be rejected.** Advisors should bring a photocopy of the school medical form for each team member to the Envirothon competition.
16. The winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative point total at the end of all five events. In the event of a tie, the top scoring team in Forestry will be the tie breaker. In the event there is a tie in the Forestry eco-station, the top scoring team in the Environmental eco-station will break the tie.
17. Home school students currently in grades 9 through 12 or equivalent home school ranking when the Envirothon is held are eligible to participate. All team members must be students from the same school or the same home school association.
18. The SWCD staff, participants, volunteers, students, advisors, and sponsors may be asked to remove a coat, sweater, or similar type of clothing, bags, large purses, backpacks, etc. and are subject to inspection any time at the event. A security personnel or Area II committee member will handle inspection .

19. Rules and regulations of the Envirothon are subject to change. Any and all relevant changes will be explained to all teams and advisors at the affected Envirothon competition.
20. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist those with disabilities; unfortunately, the time allotted for each test cannot be changed.
21. Any suggestions for improvement of these rules and regulations will be considered by the Area II Envirothon Committee. Changes will be made only upon general consensus of the committee.

## Weather Policy

**In the Event of Rain:** If rain occurs, without lightning, the contest will continue until the closing announcements.

**In the Event of Lightning:** At the first sign of lightning, all exams are collected by the Station Monitor. Teams may keep their scoring sheets. Team Leaders will lead and monitor teams upstairs and inside the Bronson-Norwalk Conservation Club. Teams are not permitted to review study materials.

If the lightning subsides quickly (within 30 minutes); the test session that is interrupted will not be counted. This should be noted by the Team Leader. Teams will move on to their next session where time will be reset to allow them the full 25 minutes. If the lightning continues, keeping teams from an additional two exams, the event is cancelled.

**In the Event of a Tornado:** Local sirens or other warning devices will be triggered. Students will be immediately led by their Team Leader to downstairs in the Bronson-Norwalk Conservation Club. All volunteers, event coordinators and visitors will be directed to follow the students to safety. Due to the shock of this experience and condition of the testing areas, the event will be cancelled and teams are excused after the all-clear has been given.

If the event is cancelled, a phone tree beginning with the Envirothon committee will begin no later than 7:30 a.m. on the day of the event. If the event cannot continue for whatever reason, a make-up test will be given. The make-up test should be compiled before the event. The make-up test should consist of 60 non site-specific questions. The soil survey still may be used to answer questions.

The make-up test developed by ODA Emily Heppner will be administered by a soil and water district employee or Emily Heppner and must be completed in 60 minutes. Each Team will need a makeup scantron sheet.

*Updated 2023*