

Massachusetts Envirothon Rules

The Massachusetts Envirothon is a year-round Environmental Education program with an ecological approach including forests, soils, water, wildlife, agriculture, and a current issue topic.

1. The Massachusetts Envirothon program is open to teams of high school aged students from grades 9 through 12. Each team will consist of five members and advisor/coach (s). Team members must attend the same school or be a member of the same club or community organization. No more than one team may represent a school, club or community organization.
2. An alternate is highly recommended as a substitute for a team member who is sick or unable to participate in the competition. The alternate must meet the criteria from Rule #1 and must be listed on the original Team Registration Form. No substitution of team members may be made once the competition has begun. Once the competition begins, the alternate may not accompany the team and will be assigned a separate schedule for the day.
3. In order to participate in the Massachusetts Envirothon event, teams must follow the registration guidelines.
4. Teams must be accompanied to the event by a team advisor/coach. Transportation to and from the event will be the responsibility of the participating team. The advisor/coach assumes all responsibility for the health and well being of their students. The team will be responsible for assuring that members demonstrate proper conduct during the competition and at the host facility.
5. Teams are expected to arrive on time and participate in all events.
6. Advisors/coaches may not have any contact with their teams from the opening to the closing of competition, except for emergencies not related to the competition. Advisors/coaches may observe their team's current issue presentation, but may not interact in any way with the team.
7. No electricity will be available for presentations and no electronic presentations of any kind will be permitted.
8. Teams may bring and use reference materials and visual aids only to support their presentations at the Current Issue station or as part of their portfolio for the Silver Award for Community Service. (Presentation materials must be stored in the designated location, when teams are not at the Current Issue Station.) The Massachusetts Envirothon will provide all other reference materials and guides necessary for the event.
9. The winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative total points. The Current Issue presentation will be 25% of the total score and the eco-stations will account for 75% of the score.
10. Only authorized persons will be allowed in the Scoring Room.
11. The winning team is entitled to represent the Massachusetts Envirothon at the Canon Envirothon (International event). The Massachusetts Envirothon Committee will contribute towards the cost of attending the Canon Envirothon. The winning team may substitute the alternate from its original Team Registration Form for one member of the team that won the state competition. Any additional changes must be submitted to and approved by the

Massachusetts Envirothon Committee. If a full contingent of the winning team is unable to attend the Canon Envirothon, the advisor/coach should notify the Massachusetts Envirothon Committee within one week of the Massachusetts Envirothon event. The second place team will be asked to take their place. The winning team is defined as 5 members and one coach/advisor.

12. The team attending the Canon Envirothon must meet the criteria set forth in the Canon Envirothon Rules. The Massachusetts Envirothon Committee and the Massachusetts Canon Envirothon Committee members are the liaison with the Canon Envirothon Committee (CEC) and will handle communications with the CEC regarding team eligibility, rules and clarification of all issues related to the international competition.

13. The team that has the honor to represent Massachusetts at the Canon Envirothon shall operate under the authority of the Massachusetts Envirothon Committee and shall operate under the guidelines provided by the Committee. The team must also comply with all rules of the Canon Envirothon.

14. The Rules of the Massachusetts Envirothon will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Massachusetts Envirothon Committee. The Rules are subject to change. Any changes will be explained to team advisors/coaches at the fall orientation workshop for coaches. Any changes that have to be made in case of unusual circumstances on the day of the Massachusetts Envirothon event will be made by the Massachusetts Envirothon Chair and explained to the advisors/coaches on that day.

15. The Massachusetts Envirothon Committee will appoint a five member Grievance Committee no later than December 1 of each year. Anyone wishing to file a Grievance must follow the Grievance Procedure. All decisions of the Massachusetts Envirothon Grievance Committee shall be final. Judges comments and interpretation on the current issue scoring sheets may not be appealed.

16. In the event of a tie for first place, the winning team will be selected following the tie breaker provision. This provision calls for competing teams to answer a series of questions.

17. All Massachusetts Envirothon teams must sign a form stating that they agree to abide by all of the Rules of the Massachusetts Envirothon. Failure to abide by the Rules will be grounds for disqualification.

18. Massachusetts Envirothon educational programs are open to schools or organizations with teams training for the Massachusetts Envirothon. All students attending programs must meet the eligibility requirements in Rule #1.

Grievance Committee

Marjorie Cooper
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Grievance Procedure

- 1.The Massachusetts Envirothon Committee will appoint a five member Grievance Committee. They will be known as the Massachusetts Envirothon Grievance Committee (MEGC). At least one member of the Envirothon Grievance Committee will be an advisor/coach. In the event that coach/advisor or their team is somehow involved in the Grievance, the MEGC will choose another teacher on the day of the event.
- 2.The Massachusetts Envirothon Committee will develop and approve an official grievance form.
- 3.Only registered team members and/or advisor/coaches can file a grievance.
- 4.The Grievance must be in conflict with the stated Rules of the Massachusetts Envirothon. Grievances may be submitted for explanations of decisions made during the competition, classification of Massachusetts Envirothon rules or to request reconsideration of decisions made during the Massachusetts Envirothon event.
- 5.The Grievance must be submitted in writing on an official grievance form available at the Registration table on the day of the event.
- 6.The Grievance must be filed with the registration table attendee no later than 15 minutes after the last station period horn/bell or within 24 hours after the end of the Massachusetts Envirothon competition (based on when the knowledge of the conflict occurred).
- 7.The Massachusetts Envirothon Grievance Committee will immediately convene and make a determination on the Grievance through a majority of the vote. The determination shall include:
 - a. Validity
 - b. Actions/Resolutions
- 8.Decisions of the Massachusetts Envirothon Grievance Committee shall be final and shall supersede those made during the competition.

Last Updated December 1, 2003