

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON RULES

March 2008

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

The Massachusetts Envirothon competition will cover a three day period. The first two days will be referred to as the “field competition” days. The third day will be known as the finals. All teams will select one of the field competition days when they register. The four highest overall scoring teams from the combined field competition days, who are able to attend the Finals, will compete at the Finals.

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 one or more Coaches. 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.

The team must register as a five-member team. If, due to unusual circumstances on any of the three days of competition, only four members are present at the Massachusetts Envirothon event, the Massachusetts Envirothon Committee will review that team’s individual case. The four members will be permitted to participate in the competition during the day, and with permission of the Massachusetts Envirothon Committee their scores may be counted competitively. Any team that arrives with less than four members on any day of the Massachusetts Envirothon competitions, will be permitted to participate in the competition during the day, however, their scores will not be counted competitively.

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. On the day of the field competitions, no substitutions of team members may be made once competition begins. At that time, the alternate will be assigned a separate schedule and may not accompany the team. On the day of the finals, the official alternate may replace one team member, should that team member be unavailable to attend.

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 Coach. Transportation to and from the event will be the responsibility of the participating team. The Coach assumes all responsibility for the health and well being of their students during all activities associated with the Envirothon. The team and advisor will be responsible for assuring that members demonstrate proper conduct during the competition and at all Envirothon activities.

5. Teams are expected to arrive on time and participate in all events.

6. Coaches and alternates may not have any contact with their teams from the opening to the closing of competitive activities on the days of the competition, except for emergencies not related to the competition. Coaches and alternates may observe their team's Current Issue presentation, but may not interact in any way with the team or each other on topics related to the competition.

7. Electricity will not be available for presentations. Additionally, electronic presentations of any kind will not be permitted during the field competition days. Teams that move onto the finals are again, not permitted to use electronic equipment for their presentations. Other electronic equipment, such as microphones and projectors, may be provided by the Massachusetts Envirothon Committee to facilitate the Finals.

8. No electronic or communication devices may be on the person of any team member or alternate from the opening to the closing of the competition on any of the three Massachusetts Envirothon competition days.

9. Teams may bring and use reference materials and visual aids only to support their presentations at the Current Issue station or to provide evidence for their community awards submissions, or to aid their roundtable discussions. (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.

10. The overall winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative total points from the Finals competition day. The Current Issue presentation on the day of the Finals will be 25% of the total score and the Eco-station scores from the field day will account for 75% of the score.

Teams competing in the Finals competition will be the top four scoring teams from the combined field competition days. Should one of those teams be unable to participate in the Finals, the team with the next highest score from the combined field competition days will be invited to take their place. The original current issue presentation scores for the four teams competing in the finals will be dropped, and will be replaced with the scores for their presentation in the finals. The top four positions overall will be determined based on these new scores.

11. Only authorized persons will be allowed in the Scoring Room.

12. The winning team has the opportunity to represent the Massachusetts Envirothon at the Canon Envirothon (North American event). The Massachusetts Envirothon Committee may 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 Coach shall notify the Massachusetts Envirothon Committee of that fact within one week of the Massachusetts Envirothon Finals. The second place team will be asked to take their place. The winning team is defined as 5 members from the official team registrations form and one Coach.

13. The team attending the Canon Envirothon must meet all criteria set forth in the Canon Envirothon Rules. The Massachusetts Envirothon Committee and the Massachusetts representative to the Canon Envirothon is 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 North American competition.

14. 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.

15. 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 Coaches at the earliest date possible. 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 Coaches on that day.

16. The Massachusetts Envirothon Committee will appoint a five member Grievance Committee 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.

17. In the event of a tie for one of the top four scoring team positions from the combined field competition days to move on to the Finals, a tie breaker provision will be used to determine the qualifying team .

In the event of a tie for first place in the overall competition on the day of the Finals, a tie breaker provision will be used to determine the first place team.

18. 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.

19. 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.