

2010 MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON RULES

Approved February 2010

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.

The Massachusetts Envirothon also sponsors or supports other activities during the year such as workshops, tours, the Canon Envirothon and more, to which these rules also apply where appropriate.

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. If more than one coach is involved then a lead coach must be designated, with others designated as Assistant Coach(es). 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 the day of the event, 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 fewer than four members on the day of the Massachusetts Envirothon event 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. 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 all Envirothon events by the team Coach or Assistant Coach. Transportation to and from events 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 Coach or Assistant Coach 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. Coaches and alternates may not have any contact with their teams from the opening to the closing of competitive activities on the day of the competition, except for emergencies not related to the competition and when they observe their team's Current Issue presentation. During the Current Issue presentation session they may not interact in any way with the team or each other on topics related to the competition.
7. No electricity will be available for presentations and no electronic presentations of any kind will be permitted during the competition.
8. No electronic or communication devices may be on the person of any team member during the competition.

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 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.
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 event. The second place team will be asked to take their place. The winning team is defined as 5 members and one Coach.
13. The team attending the Canon Envirothon must meet the 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 first place in the overall competition, 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.

Massachusetts Envirothon 2010

Grievance Committee

Tom Anderson (Chair)

TBA

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 a Coach. In the event that Coach 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 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.