



Ontario Envirothon

# Rules and Regulations



# Rules & Regulations

## Eligibility

The following rules apply to both regional and the provincial Ontario Envirothon competitions.

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- 1** All team members must be enrolled in grades 9–12 for the entire school year.
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- 2** Each team will consist of five (5) students from the same school, home-schooled group, or local organization. Except for teams from joint vocational schools, team members cannot be drawn from different schools (i.e. no “all-star” teams).
    - a** Teams of less than five (5) students may participate in regional events at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator. In the event that a team of less than five (5) students is allowed to participate they cannot place in the standings or win regional events with the exception of an emergency situation as outlined in #2c.
    - b** No alternates, with the exception of substitutions as described in section #3 and approved by the organizers, may participate in any Ontario Envirothon competition.
    - c** In the event of an emergency (e.g. sudden illness of a family member) organizers may allow a team of less than five (5) to participate and place in the standings at a regional event. The advisor must certify the legitimacy of the emergency by e-mail or phone with the organizers in advance of testing. The organizers will determine if a deduction shall be assessed to the team in the presentation for the absence of a complete five (5) member team.
    - d** If a team member becomes injured or ill during the competition, the organizers will determine if a deduction shall be assessed to a team in the presentation for the absence of a complete five (5) member team.
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- 3** **Substitutions :**
    - a** Substitutions are allowed provided the alternate team member meets the participation requirements as described in sections #1 & #2 of the Rules and Regulations document and the advisor alerts organizers before the start of the competition.
    - b** Substitutions cannot be made once testing has commenced. Teams must consist of the same members throughout the entire testing day(s).
    - c** Any teams having to make substitutions at the provincial level must obtain approval from Forests Canada at least one (1) week prior to the competition.
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- 4** Each Regional Coordinator will determine how many teams will be allowed to enter in their Regional Envirothon competition. All teams that participate at the Regional Envirothon must register through Forests Canada in order to participate. If a team wins their regional event, and was not registered through Forests Canada, they will not be allowed to participate at the Ontario Envirothon Championship. In the event that this happens, the team with the next highest score will be invited to attend. It is the responsibility of the Regional Coordinators and team advisors to ensure that all teams participating have registered through Forests Canada.

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**5** Teams must be accompanied to all Ontario Envirothon events by an adult advisor. During the event, the advisor cannot coach the team during testing, presentation preparation, or delivery.

- a In the event that the team's original advisor is unable to attend, a substitute advisor is required. The advisor must notify organizers and Forests Canada in advance.
- b Advisors/chaperones are responsible for student's behavior and actions. Organizers and Forests Canada will not be responsible for improperly chaperoned teams.

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**6** Registration and all required forms must be received by announced deadline(s). Late or illegible forms may be rejected. It may be required that advisors bring a photocopy of the school medical release form for each team member to Envirothon events.

## *Competition*

The following rules apply to both the regional and provincial Ontario Envirothon competitions.

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**7** Team members are not to use or be in possession of electronic recording or internet-enabled devices such as cell phones, tape recorders, tablets, smart watches, etc. during testing or presentation preparation.

- a No electronic, battery-powered, or solar powered equipment may be used by or be in the possession of team members during the field testing, presentation preparation, or presentations unless such equipment is provided or approved in advance by the organizers.
- b Cheating in any fashion by students, advisors, chaperones or guests during any Ontario Envirothon event will not be tolerated; disciplinary action will be taken.

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**8** Reference materials cannot be used during an Ontario Envirothon competition except where specified by regional or provincial event organizers. Any materials necessary for completion of Ontario Envirothon testing stations will be provided to all teams equally by the organizers.

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**9** Judges' decisions are final. Contested decisions will be reviewed by the organizers and an ad hoc committee at the competition. The winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative points at the end of testing stations and presentation.

## Regional Competition

The following rules only apply to the regional Ontario Envirothon competitions with the exception of items #11b though #11j which apply to regional competitions as well as the Provincial Ontario Envirothon Championship.

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**10** Regional Ontario Envirothon events will include testing on the four (4) basic Envirothon subject areas: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, and Wildlife.

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### **11 Presentations for the Ontario Envirothon:**

- a** Team presentations will be eight (8) minutes maximum in length, followed by two (2) minutes of questions to team members by the judges. The length and format of the presentation at the regional level may differ and will be determined by the organizers.
- b** All five (5) team members must participate orally in the presentation.
- c** During presentations, no school, city or regional identification, either written or verbal, is permitted.
- d** No contact is to be made between the team advisors/chaperones/guests and the judges during the presentation.
- e** Unless explicitly stated by the organizers, visual aids must be prepared on-site by team members using only materials provided by the host and organizers. If teams are found to be using materials not provided by the host or organizers to prepare visual aids, the organizers will determine if the team will be subject to a deduction off their presentation score.
- f** During the preliminary presentation rounds, advisors/chaperones (and registered and approved guests) may observe only the team they have accompanied to the competition, with the permission of the team.
- g** No photography or video recording is allowed during the presentations unless approved in advance by the organizers.
- h** Each team is responsible for ensuring the listed amounts of supplies are in their team's presentation package. If a team has more supplies than listed and does not disclose them to a room monitor, the team may be subject to a deduction as determined by the organizers.
- i** Unless explicitly specified, teams are not allowed to use materials and/or fixtures found in their assigned presentation preparation room including, but not limited to: white boards, chalk boards and easels. Teams found to be using these items may be subject to a deduction as determined by the organizers.
- j** If a team is in need of supplies, they should notify the room monitor and the room monitor will ensure the materials are supplied as soon as possible. No additional time will be given to the team to prepare.

## Provincial Competition

The following rules apply to only the Provincial Ontario Envirothon Championship.

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**12** In addition to the four (4) core subjects, teams at the Ontario Envirothon Provincial Competition will be required to complete a written test on the Current Issue.

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**13** Team presentations will be ten (10) minutes maximum in length followed by five (5) minutes of questions to team members by the judges

**a** Items #11b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i and j also apply to the provincial competition.

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**14** Teams attending the provincial competition must be those that won their regional event or have been awarded a wildcard spot. If a winning regional team cannot attend the provincial competition, they must give notification to the Regional Coordinator and Forests Canada as soon as possible in advance of the provincial competition's date.

**a** In the event that a winning team cannot represent their region or province at the next level of competition, the team with the next highest score will be eligible and invited to attend.

**b** Teams having to make substitutions at the provincial competition level must obtain approval from the organizers and Forests Canada at least one (1) week prior to the competition.

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**15** In the event that an eligible alternative cannot be found, a team of less than five (5) students may be allowed to participate in the provincial competition, but will not place in the overall standings.

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**16** All team members and advisors are expected to attend all scheduled activities on the competition agenda.

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**17** Except during off-site events organized and conducted by the organizers, no team members or advisors are allowed to leave the host site without first notifying the organizers.

**a** If an advisor has to leave for any part of the event, the advisor must find a chaperone willing to take responsibility for their team in the advisor's absence. Ontario Envirothon, Forests Canada and the organizing committee are not responsible for team members.

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**18** Advisors/chaperones are responsible for students' behavior and actions. The organizers will not be responsible for improperly chaperoned teams. No student or advisor will be allowed in the opposite gender's dormitory or room between the hours of 11:00 pm to 7:00 am. Any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action.

## General Terms & Conditions

The following rules apply to both the regional and provincial Ontario Envirothon competitions.

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**19** Stealing or vandalism to personal, private, or public property before, during, or after any Ontario Envirothon event will not be tolerated. Also, poor behaviour (i.e. the use of alcohol, drugs, harm to other student) will not be tolerated and immediate disciplinary action may be taken. Because students compete as a team, the actions of one team member may be considered to be the actions of the team as a whole.

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**20** Any suggestions for improvement of the Ontario Envirothon Rules and Regulations and procedures will be considered by Forests Canada.

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**21** Any violation of these rules will result in disciplinary action as determined by the organizers.

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**22** Ontario Envirothon Rules and Regulations are subject to change. Any and all relevant changes will be explained to all teams and advisors in advance of an Ontario Envirothon competition.

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**23** By participating in the Ontario Envirothon competition, entrants agree that Forests Canada has no liability whatsoever for, and shall be released, discharged and held harmless by entrants against, any liability for any injuries, losses or damages of any kind (including direct, indirect, incidental, consequential or punitive damages) to persons or property arising out of or in any way connected with entrant's participation in the Ontario Envirothon competition, the operation of this competition, or use/misuse of any prize.

