2027 Iowa Envirothon Rules and Regulations

1. Team members must be enrolled in grades 9-12 during the school year preceding the International NFC Envirothon competition.
2. Teams will consist of five members. A team will not be allowed to compete unless there are five members present at the competition.
3. Alternate team members may substitute for regular team members in the regional and state Envirothon competitions if properly registered. *Unless needed on the day of the competition, alternates will not be allowed to attend the state competition*.
4. Each school or club is permitted to register and send as many teams as they want to the regional competition but only the top two teams from each school or club will be eligible to compete at the state competition. Each student will be allowed to compete on only one team.
5. All teams must use the Iowa Envirothon registration form on the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) website at https://cdiowa.org/iowa-envirothon/overview/. On the registration form, each team will list their school, advisor/coach, identify the regional test proctor, note whether or not it is an FFA team, and identify potential team members. If the team is an FFA team, all members of the team must be FFA members. An $80 per team registration fee should be received by CDI prior to the regional event. This registration fee covers costs associated with both the regional and state competitions.
6. At the time of the regional online competition, each team will enter their team's name, a list of the actual team members and confirm whether the team is an FFA team. Any team that advances to the State competition should be made up of the same individuals that competed on that team for the regional competition. If needed, state qualifying teams may substitute up to two members out of the five members that made up the regional team. Two alternate individuals for potential replacements should be submitted on a team roster prior to the state competition.
7. Generally, the top 15 teams from the regional online competition will move on to the state competition but being among the top 15 teams at the regional level does not guarantee an invitation to the state competition. Schools, chapters, or clubs having multiple teams in the top 15 will only be allowed to send their **top two** teams to the state competition.
8. Only reference materials and identification keys provided by the Envirothon Coordinator and the volunteers at testing stations will be allowed. Reference packets will be provided at each station as necessary.
9. Teams must be accompanied to any Envirothon competition by an adult advisor or representative of a soil conservation district. During the competition, however, the advisor may not accompany their own team(s). Another adult will be assigned as a group leader.
10. The Iowa Envirothon shall consist of five competitive categories: aquatic ecology, forestry/prairie, soils, wildlife, and a current environmental topic. The current environmental topic area will only be included at the state level and beyond.
11. The Envirothon competition will be conducted by personnel employed by cooperating local, state, and/or federal agencies and volunteers from independent companies, environmental organizations, and other industry professionals.

12. Team members are not to use or be in possession of any electronic recording or communication devices such as cell phones, tablets, tape recorders, video cameras, etc. during the competition or review session. Adults accompanying students are not permitted to video tape or record the competition or review sessions. Proctors and volunteers have the responsibly for enforcing this rule. Calculators are permitted.
13. Decisions of the judges are final. For breaking a tie at the regional level for qualifying to advance to the state event, scores from the following subjects will be used to break this tie, in this order: soils score; aquatic ecology score; forestry score, and wildlife score. For breaking a tie at the state level for determining the top team to advance to the NCF Envirothon event and the first and second place FFA teams to advance to the National FFA Forestry Event or the National FFA Environmental & Natural Resources event, scores from the following subjects will be used to break this tie, in this order: current issues score; soils score; aquatic ecology score; forestry score, and wildlife score. This corresponds with the tie breakers that the NCF Envirothon has been using.
14. The winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative point total at the end of the five events. (Four events for the regional competitions. There will be no current issues oral presentation topic at the regional event.)
15. Transportation and meals when traveling to and from the state competition will be the responsibility of the participating teams.
16. Advisors will be responsible to assure that teams display proper conduct during the competition and at the host facility.
17. Snuff, tobacco, drugs, and all alcohol are PROHIBITED during the entire competition. (Rules applicable to local school code of conduct will apply)
18. Envirothon rules and regulations are subject to change. All relevant changes will be explained to all teams and advisors at the affected Envirothon competition.
19. Any suggestions for improvement of the Envirothon rules and regulations or procedures should be submitted in writing to the Iowa Envirothon Coordinator. All changes to the rules and regulations are based on a consensus of the coordinator and committee members.
20. Individual students and teams may compete in consecutive years if the students are in grades 9-12. There is no restriction on winning teams or students competing in future competitions.
21. The team with the highest cumulative score at the State Envirothon Competition will represent Iowa at the NCF Envirothon competition. In case of a tie, a tie breaker will determine the winning team. If the winning team is unable to attend, the team with the next highest score will be selected.
22. The winning team must make arrangements for travel to the NCF Envirothon competition in a timely manner. The Iowa Envirothon will attempt to cover the basic expenses of sending the team to this international competition, but this cannot be guaranteed. Expenses incurred by the winning team due to delays in planning or last-minute changes in team or staff members will be the responsibility of the team. **The 2027 event will be held at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD, from July 24-30, 2027.**