**AREA VI ENVIROTHON RULES**

***Area VI Districts: Appomattox River SWCD, Chowan Basin SWCD, Eastern Shore SWCD, James River SWCD, Peanut SWCD, and Virginia Dare SWCD***

1. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to participate.

2. Each of the six Districts in Area VI, may send two teams from the District contest to compete in the Area VI Envirothon competition. Each team should represent a single high school, Governor’s School, FFA, 4-H Club, or Ecology Club, etc. Groups of home-schooled students organized to work together as a team are eligible.

3. The District(s) coordinating the Area VI competition will provide registration forms; schedules and directions for the Area VI event. Each District or team that is planning on participating in the Area VI Envirothon competition shall provide the host District with a completed Area VI registration form as soon as possible after each local competition and no later than 3 days prior to the date of the Area contest.

4. A team must consist of five members from the same school or club. In addition, a maximum of two alternates are allowed. In the event that an original/regular team member (one of the 5 original team members listed on the local competition’s registration form) is unable to participate, (illness, injury, death in family, etc.) an alternate (who was listed on the local competition’s registration form) may take their place and then becomes a permanent member of the team for all future competitions (State and National). Under no circumstance may a team competing in the Area competition contain less than 5 members, composed of at least three regular members and two alternates. Unless replacing a regular team member, alternates will not be allowed to travel with their team while at the competition and will not be allowed to help the team set up during the presentation part of the contest, but may participate on the alternate team as assigned.

5. Coaches or advisors must accompany their team to the Area VI competition. They will not have contact with their team at the testing stations during the competition and will serve as guides for other teams during the contest. Contact between coaches and their team during the contest is a violation of the rules and subject to penalty.

6. Decisions of resource personnel or station judges are final with respect to test questions, answers and timekeeping. The majority of the test questions will be generated from the resource materials listed or provided for the competition and/or related to learning objectives.

7. In the event of an overall tie, the highest oral presentation score will break the tie.

8. The contest will consist of questions in the subjects of soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and special issue. Each station/subject area will be worth 1/7 of the overall score. In addition, the contest will also include an oral presentation; the presentation will be worth 2/7 of the total score. Students should compile a list of resource references/information and present it to judges before or during their presentation (as per Virginia Envirothon Judges Score Sheet -Part I B.).

9. Team members should work together to answer test questions, submitting one completed test to the station judge(s) before moving to the next station. Approximately thirty (30) minutes will be allowed for answering questions at each station. Approximately five (5) minutes will be given for travel between stations.

10. Teams will not be permitted to take their tests with them at the conclusion of the competition. Teams will have time to review their tests while at the competition grounds. No pictures or detailed notes will be allowed to be taken of the tests. Copies of the tests will not be provided to the teams after the competition.

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11. Presentations will be given during the appropriate time slot in each team’s rotation. Each team will have five (5) minutes to set up, twenty (20) minutes to make their presentation, and five (5) minutes to answer questions from the judges–for a total of approximately thirty (30) minutes. The Dominion Virginia Envirothon Judges’ Scoring Sheet for Team Presentations will be used for scoring at the Area VI contest. The high and the low score from each presentation will be dropped and the remaining scores will be averaged and rounded to the nearest hundredth place, following the practice of the State Contest and the North American Envirothon. The oral presentation judges and/or the assigned helpers are responsible for the official timekeeping at the oral presentation station. In keeping with the State and National contests, only non-electrical "Audio Visuals" such as flip charts, posters, models, maps, etc. will be allowed.

12. Plaques will be presented to the top three overall teams in the Area VI Competition. Certificates of Participation will be given to all team members and alternates.

13. Medical needs, emergencies and student conduct during the Area VI competition are the responsibility of the school/coach or group the team represents during the contest. Please have students share medical information such as allergies or medication needs with coaches before leaving for the contest. The contest should be considered a school or group-sanctioned field trip. Participating schools or groups are responsible for the appropriate permission slips or liability waivers that apply to field trips. It is the duty of the coach to make sure appropriate chaperones are in keeping with their individual school policies for field trips.

14. The lunch break is considered a part of the Envirothon competition. Studying or use of other materials is prohibited during the lunch break. Team escorts shall remain with their assigned team during the entire competition, including the lunch break.

15. Students are not permitted to carry cell phones on the day of the event. Teams may carry only the itinerary, writing tools, water bottles, and snacks (calculators, clipboards and other items will be provided as needed at stations).

16. Teams should not wear clothing that identifies their school or Conservation District during any part of the competition. Teams should not mention or identify their school or Conservation District during any part of the competition.

17. Any infraction of the Area Rules may result in disqualification and dismissal from the event.

18. Any concerns should be brought to the immediate attention of the Chair of the Area VI Envirothon Appeals Committee (Lead/Host District Representative). Teams must submit written appeals using the Virginia Envirothon Appeals Form to the Appeals Committee within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the final testing station. The Appeals Committee will review appeals and take proper action if necessary. The Appeals Committee will consist of one representative from each of the participating Districts and a representative from the VASWCD (if present) and one other associated person (i.e.-station judge).

19. The Area VI Envirothon will be held rain or shine. Participants should be prepared to encounter mud, rain, wind, ticks, poison ivy, etc. and should dress accordingly. A change of clothes and/or shoes is highly recommended.

20. In order to participate and or compete in the Area VI Envirothon competition, each team member and coach/advisor must sign the Area VI Envirothon Rules Acknowledgement Form and provide it with their Area VI Envirothon Registration form.

**Area VI Envirothon Rules Acknowledgement Form**

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received and read the Area VI Envirothon Rules and agree to follow them to ensure that this event will maintain a fair but competitive playing field for all involved.

**Coach/Advisor:** Printed Name Signature

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**Team Members:** Printed Name Signature

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**Alternate(s):** Printed Name Signature

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**SWCD Representative:**

Printed Name Signature

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