

# California Envirothon Operating Rules

## August 2017

### Introduction

Rules of the California Envirothon (CAE) are subject to change, revision, or modifications by the CAE Steering Committee. Any and all changes will be noted and explained in advance to all registered teams and advisors (primarily via email) . The CAE website will be the main source for communication and other essential information on the annual competition event.

The National Conservation Foundation – Envirothon Rules and Regulations will govern any questions which are not covered by the CAE Rules. The NCF Envirothon Rules shall not supersede any of the established CAE Rules.

The CAE Steering Committee retains the flexibility to modify the following rules and will note any changes or revisions as an annual addendum.

### Rules

1. The number of teams participating from each school in the annual CAE competition will be determined at the discretion of the California Envirothon Steering Committee.
2. Only students in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to compete in the CAE. However, if the current winning team has any student(s) who graduates after the CAE event, that student(s) remains eligible to advance and compete at the National Envirothon event.
3. If any student of the winning team cannot advance to the nationals, an alternate recommended by the team advisor, may replace that individual. The named alternate must be approved by the CAE Steering Committee.
4. If the first place team is unable to advance, the second place team will be designated to proceed to the nationals.
5. Each team must consist of five members from the same school, organization, or club, and must be sponsored by a California Resource Conservation District or an association of RCDs. Each team is encouraged to have an alternate. The alternate may volunteer for the event. Any substitution for a member(s) of the competing team must receive approval from the CAE Steering Committee, at least two weeks prior to the event.
6. Each school that intends to compete must complete and submit the pre-registration form on [www.caenvirothon.com](http://www.caenvirothon.com) before the designated deadline in the fall (one pre-registration form per school).
7. To be allowed entry in the CAE, each team must submit a registration form and a non-refundable fee. This process is now being administered online at CAE's website: [caenvirothon.com](http://caenvirothon.com). Late submission of online registration and payment will be considered by the CAE Steering Committee on a case-by-case basis.

8. Each team must have one advisor. If the team is coed, a chaperone of each gender must travel along. Each team must have a chaperone to oversee and supervise the students' conduct to avoid questionable behavior. Advisors will be responsible for their team's conduct at the host facility during the event. Any conduct by advisors or students deemed inappropriate by the CAE Steering Committee will be grounds for disqualification and dismissal. *Team members and advisors must attend all scheduled events at the competition.* No team member or advisor may leave the CAE site facility without first obtaining permission from the CAE Steering Committee.
9. Conduct of all CAE participants must be of an appropriate ethical manner for this youth oriented education setting. Students must wear appropriate dress attire. The CAE Steering Committee reserves the right to exclude anyone violating this rule from future events (refer to Rule 7).
10. Advisors and/or chaperones, may not travel with, nor converse with, their respective teams once the station testing begins. Allowances will be made for advisors to visit the test sites and view testing.
11. All resource materials must be checked in upon arrival at the host site. Use of these materials or any other material other than what is provided at each field test site is strictly prohibited. The only exception is each team is allowed use of a calculator. All materials checked in upon arrival may be retrieved at the end of the competition.
12. CAE competition is official at the time the team checks in upon arrival and until such time the winning team is decided. During the competition, all team members and advisors must wear the CAE T-shirt provided upon check in but not mandatory during entertainment events. No other identification regarding school, team, or student name, either written or stated, is permitted. Name tags may not be worn at any time.
13. Cell phones and other electronic devices are prohibited during testing and advisors should have custody of these devices during all testing (field and orals). The CAE Steering Committee should be advised of any medical devices a student may require throughout testing to avoid misunderstandings or possible violation of the rules.
14. The scoring schematic will be published each year before the annual event in the Yearly Rules Addendum on [caenvirothon.com](http://caenvirothon.com)
15. Any challenges or disputes may be submitted in writing or verbally by an advisor to any member(s) of the CAE Steering Committee up to 15 minutes after the first place team is announced. After that time, all decisions are final.
16. The first place team and their advisor will receive the CAE perpetual trophy for display. It will be returned to the following year's competition for award to the winning team.
17. Any infraction of the CAE rules may result in disqualification and dismissal from the event and host site. All rules are weighted equally and all decisions of the CAE Steering Committee are final.