

HERPETOLOGY DRAFT RULES 17

1. **DESCRIPTION:** This event will test the knowledge of amphibians and reptiles including turtles and crocodilians.
A TEAM OF UP TO: 2 APPROXIMATE TIME: 50 minutes
2. **EVENT PARAMETERS:** Each team may bring one Official National list along with one commercially produced field guide, which may be annotated and tabbed OR one three-ring binder of any size containing information in any form and from any source, attached using the available rings. The information may be removed during the event. Sheet protectors and laminated sheets are allowed.
3. **THE COMPETITION:**
 - a. Each team will be given an answer sheet on which they will record answers to each section
 - b. Specimens/pictures will be lettered or numbered at each station. The event could include living and preserved specimens, skeletal materials and slides or pictures of specimens.
 - c. Each specimen will have one or more questions accompanying it on some aspect of its life history, distribution, etc.
 - d. Participants should be able to do basic identification and answer taxonomy questions to the level indicated on the Official National Herpetology, habitat characteristics, ecology, diet, behavior, conservation and biogeography.
 - e. States may have modified state or regional list which will be posted on the state website no later than November 1st.
 - f. No more than 50% of the competition will require giving common or scientific names (class, order or genus as indicated on the Official List).
 - g. There should be a balance between amphibian, turtle & reptile questions with some questions on crocodilians.
 - h. The National competition will be based on the Official National Herpetology List.
4. **SAMPLE ACTIVITIES:**
 - a. Identify the order, family and genus of the provided sample.
 - b. Based on the dental structure of this organism, predict the type of food this organism eats.
 - c. What conclusion can be drawn about the habitat(s) of these three specimens?
 - d. Which of these animals does not fit within the family?
 - e. What unique anatomical feature distinguishes this animal?
 - f. Compare and contrast a crocodile with an alligator?
5. **SCORING:** The teams with the highest number of correct answers will be the winners. Selected questions may be used as tie-breakers.