

BYLAWS
Of the
District VI FFA
Of the
Area III Association

These bylaws (referred to as the “Bylaws”) govern the affairs of the District VI FFA (referred to as the “district”), a recognized administrative subdivision of the Area III Association, an area administrative subdivision of Texas FFA Association, organized under the provisions the Texas FFA Constitution, Bylaws and policies adopted by the Texas FFA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE I

Purposes

The purposes of this district shall be consistent with the provisions of the Area III Association, Texas FFA Association Constitution, Bylaws and policies adopted by the Area III Association and the Texas FFA Association Board of Directors. The district shall cooperate with the Area III Association, Texas FFA Association, Texas Education Agency and local district officials in accomplishing its purposes.

ARTICLE II

Membership

The district shall be comprised of active chapters in good standing chartered by the Texas FFA Association and district districts formed under the provisions of the Article IV, Section C of the Texas FFA Association Bylaws and pursuant to polices adopted by the Area III Association. Members of the district shall be active members of good standing pursuant to Article V of the Texas FFA Constitution.

ARTICLE III

Emblem

Section A: The official emblem of the district shall be the same as that of the National FFA Organization. It shall include five symbols: the plow, representing the labor and tillage of the soil; the owl, representing wisdom; the rising sun, representing progress; a cross-section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests; and an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of the ear of corn, representing the national scope of the organization. The emblem shall also include the letters, "FFA" and the words "Agricultural Education."

Section B: The emblem and other trademarks of the organization shall be applied by the district consistent with policies of the National FFA Organization and the Texas FFA Association.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

Section A: The annual assembly of student delegates shall convene no less than once per year for the purpose of electing student officers and conducting such other business as may be properly considered. Except in cases of extreme emergency, the district convention shall be held prior to the Area III Association Convention.

Section B: Special meetings may be called by the executive committee. 30 days notice shall be required to call any special meeting.

Section C: Each chapter in good standing is entitled to seat the number of student delegates prescribed by Article XIII, Section B of the Texas FFA Constitution. Delegates shall be apportioned pursuant to the membership submitted by each chapter to the Texas FFA Association by the deadlines prescribed by the Texas FFA Association's Constitution, Bylaws and policies. All delegates must be active members in good standing.

Section D: A quorum shall exist when a majority of delegates are present and the said convened delegates represent a majority of the district's chapters in good standing.

Section E: Cumulative and proxy voting are prohibited. In election processes requiring two votes, a ballot must have two votes cast to constitute a legal ballot.

ARTICLE V

Student Officers

Section A: The district's student activities shall be led by student officers in accordance to policies adopted by the district and its executive committee.

Section B: The district's student FFA officers shall be elected by the student delegates assembled at the district's annual convention. Each chapter in good standing shall be entitled to nominate one candidate for office. Each of these candidates shall be given the opportunity to demonstrate FFA, agricultural education, parliamentary procedure knowledge and other such knowledge deemed appropriate by the district's executive committee and delegates via a written exam, present their qualifications to an evaluation committee in the form of a formal interview and appear before the delegates to deliver a campaign speech. Additional policies and procedures regarding the election of student FFA officers shall be adopted by a majority vote of the district's teachers and student delegates.

Section C: A president shall be elected from the field of candidates by a combination of exam score, interview score and delegate vote. Candidates shall advance to a run-off election via a method recommended by the area elections committee and approved by the student delegates.

Section D: The district's elections committee shall consist of the outgoing student officers, with the district's executive committee acting as an advisory committee. The chairman of the elections committee shall be the district's teacher president or another teacher designated by the district. The elections committee and executive committee shall work in conjunction to resolve election-related matters not addressed by these bylaws or by the district's policies and procedures. Results of all elections will be announced as seen fit by the two committees. Questions, concerns or appeals concerning elections shall be addressed to the district's teacher president.

Section E: The candidate earning the highest point total in the final round of voting shall be declared president of the district, and the candidate receiving the second highest score total in the

final runoff election shall be declared the vice-president. Officers shall be assigned in rank order: secretary, treasurer, reporter, sentinel, and chaplain and shall perform duties as described for each respective office in the Official FFA Manual and other duties as assigned pursuant to district policy.

Section F: Candidates for district office must be a member in good standing, hold the chapter degree at the time of election by the district, have completed no less than two semesters of agriculture food and natural resources instruction as described by Texas FFA Association membership eligibility policies and have been an active member for the preceding 12 months.

Section G: If for any reason a student officer becomes vacant, the district executive committee shall fill the office with a qualified officer from the alternate candidates from the district officer election in which the said officers were elected. If no alternates are available, the executive committee shall solicit applicants from chapters which do not have district officers, review qualifications and interview each applicant and select a qualified replacement to fill the said vacancy. If for any reason the office of president should become vacant, the student officer who received the next highest score in the election for president shall become president.

Section H: If a student FFA officer moves out of the district, the office shall be declared vacant. If a student FFA officer is a member of a chapter moved to another district in an area district re-alignment, the said officer shall serve remainder of his or her term.

Section I: Student FFA officers shall serve from one district convention through the next succeeding district convention and shall not be re-elected, or be eligible for reelection to another district office.

Section J: Duties of officers and discipline policies related to officers shall be established in policies and procedures adopted by the district teachers and delegates.

ARTICLE VI Teacher Officers

Section A: The district's teacher activities, fiduciary oversight and other functions related to the agriculture, food and natural resources teaching profession shall be led by teacher officers.

Section B: The elected teacher officers of the district shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The district may elect such other officers as it deems necessary and in doing so shall define their respective duties and terms of office. All officers serve without pay, volunteering their time and efforts for the benefit of the district.

Section C: No person is eligible to be an officer of the district unless that person is actively employed as an agriculture, food and natural resources instructor at a school within the district, is an advisor of a local chapter in good standing with the district and is a member in good standing with the state's professional association that represents agriculture, food and natural resources teachers.

Section D: With the exception of the student officer advisor, teacher officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the district's teachers present at a regularly scheduled and posted district meeting held in conjunction with the state professional improvement conference and shall serve until such time as the district sees fit to elect new officers. If at any time the office of president shall become vacant, the vice president shall fulfill the duties of the president until such time as the district convenes to elect a new president. If at any time, the executive committee determines that one of the other teacher officers of the district is unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties of the office to which they were elected, the executive committee shall declare a vacancy and shall have the authority to appoint an interim officer. The district's teachers shall hold an election to fill the said office at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Section E: Duties of teacher officers shall be as follows:

- (a) The president shall preside as chairperson at all meetings of the district's teachers and executive committee, shall sign all official documents or authorize execution of said documents and shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office of president.
- (b) The vice president shall perform the duties of the president in the event of the disability, absence, death, resignation or other inability or failure of the president to perform such duties. The vice president shall also perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her or authorized by the district or its executive committee.
- (c) The secretary shall make and keep or cause to be made and kept correct records or minutes of the proceeding of the district and the executive committee and shall perform such other duties as are normally performed by secretaries of corporations and such other and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her or authorized by the district or its executive committee.
- (d) The treasurer shall have responsibility for handling and accounting of all funds and property of the district. The treasurer shall provide direction and oversight to any and all who handle monies of the district, assuring that the financial policies of the district and the reporting requirements of the Internal Revenue Service and Texas FFA Association and Area III Association are followed completely and shall present a proposal annual budget to the district teachers at the regularly scheduled and posted meeting held in conjunction with the state professional improvement conference.

Section F: The student officer advisor shall be the advisor of the current student officer president. Should the student officer president have multiple advisors, the said school shall designate one advisor to serve in this capacity. The student officer advisor shall coordinate student officer activities including but not limited to conducting the district leadership conference and the student portion of the district's annual convention.

ARTICLE VII

Executive Committee

Section A: The elected teacher officers, student officer advisor shall constitute the district's executive committee which shall have the authority to deal with items of business of the district in accordance to policies and procedures adopted by the district and to address grievances and concerns submitted pursuant to the district's adopted grievance policies and procedures.

Section B: The executive committee shall meet upon the call of the president or the call of any two members of the executive committee. The call shall be reduced to writing, signed by the person or persons making the same and shall include an agenda of the items to be considered at said meeting. The business conducted at each meeting shall be limited to those items listed in the agenda except upon a majority vote of those directors present and voting. The secretary shall mail by regular first class mail or by e-mail a copy of the agenda to each director at his or her address as shown on the record of the district no later than one week prior to the date of the said meeting. The one-week notice may be waived by a unanimous vote of the executive committee to address time-sensitive matters.

Section C: A quorum of the executive committee shall exist when a majority of voting members are present. Executive committee members may not vote by proxy.

Section D: Telephone conferences of the executive committee may be called and considered meetings provided that all participating members may participate and be heard simultaneously.

Section E: Members of the executive committee shall not participate in the deliberations or voting regarding items of business in which they have a vested personal interest. Any executive committee member with a conflict of interest shall declare the conflict of interest prior to the consideration of said item of business and shall recuse him or herself from all deliberations and voting. Should there be a doubt as to whether or not a conflict of interest exists, the matter shall be resolved by a vote of the executive committee, excluding the person concerning whose situation the doubt has arisen. Executive committee minutes shall reflect when a conflict of interest was disclosed.

ARTICLE VIII Committees

Section A: The district may adopt a resolution establishing standing or special committees, delegating specified authority to a committee. The district shall elect chairpersons of standing or special committees, but may delegate to the president its power to appoint, suspend or remove chairpersons or members should a conflict of interest or other circumstances warrant such action.

Section B: No committee shall have the authority to:

- (a) amend the district's bylaws or policies.
- (b) Elect, appoint or remove any member of any such committee
- (c) Authorize the sale, lease, exchange or mortgage the property or assets of the district.
- (d) Adopt a plan for the distribution of the assets of the district.
- (e) Take any action outside of the scope of authority delegated to it by the district or its executive committee.

Section C: The student officer president shall have the authority to appoint student committee's to operate within the authority of the district bylaws and policies.

Section D: Each member of a committee shall continue to serve on the committee until a successor is appointed or the committee is terminated. The term of a committee member may

terminate earlier if the member ceases to qualify, resigns or is removed as a member. A vacancy on a committee may be filled by an appointment made in the same manner as the original appointment or by other means authorized by these bylaws.

Section E: A majority of the membership of a committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of a committee. The committee members present at a duly called meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to transact business even if enough committee members leave the meeting so that less than a quorum remains. However, no action may be approved without the vote of at least a majority of the number of committee members required to constitute a quorum.

Section F: Telephone conferences of a committee may be called and considered meetings provided that all participating members may participate and be heard simultaneously.

Section G: Each committee may adopt rules for its own operation which are not inconsistent with the district's bylaws or policies or with the policies of the Area III Association or the Texas FFA Association.

ARTICLE IX

Transactions of the District

Section A: The district may authorize any officer or agent of the district to enter into a contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of the district. This authority may be limited to a specific contract or instrument or it may extend to any number and type of possible contracts and instruments.

Section B: All funds of the district shall be deposited to the credit of the district in banks, credit unions, trust companies or other depositories that the district selects.

Section C: Any officer may accept on behalf of the district any contribution, gift, bequest or devise for the general purpose or for any specified purpose of the district. Gifts and recognition of said gifts shall be consistent with state and federal law concerning non-profit corporations.

Section D: The district shall not make a loan to any individual.

Section E: The fiscal year of the district shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31.

Section F: The district shall adopt policies and procedures consistent with federal and state non-profit organization laws and non-profit organization audit standards and conduct fiduciary responsibilities in compliance with these policies and procedures.

ARTICLE X

Dues and Fees

Section A: Annual membership dues shall be fixed by a majority vote of the delegates assembled at the annual convention. Chapters shall be notified in writing of a proposed dues change no later than 30 days prior to the annual convention.

Section B: The district may levy additional fees to offset operational expenses. Additional fees must approved by a majority vote of the delegates assembled at the annual convention. Chapters shall be notified in writing of a proposed fee or a change in a fee no later than 30 days prior to the annual convention.

ARTICLE XIV

Area, State and National Officer Candidates

The district shall elect candidates for area, state and national office in a manner consistent with the election policies and procedures of the Area III Association related to each of these respective offices or candidacies.

Article XV

Grievance and Appeals

The district shall adopt grievance policies and procedures consistent with the policies of the Texas FFA Association and the Area III Association. Appeals related to competitive events and awards programs shall be resolved in accordance to the Texas FFA Association Conflict Resolution Policy in the respective competitive event or program policies.

Article XVI

Amendments

Proposed amendments to the district's bylaws must be submitted in writing to the district's president no later than 60 days prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be considered. The said amendment shall be submitted in writing to the local chapters of the district no later than 30 days prior to the district meeting at which the amendment is to be considered. Amendments to the bylaws may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the votes cast by the official delegates. Amendments must not be in conflict with provisions of the Area III FFA Association, Texas FFA Association and National FFA Organization Constitution or Bylaws, state or national FFA policy or other provisions of these bylaws.

Article XVII

Parliamentary Procedure

The "Parliamentary Guide for FFA" by Jarrell D. Gray shall be used a guide for all district meetings. The latest edition of "Roberts Rules of Order" shall be the final authority in governing the actions in all district meetings.

Article XVIII

Miscellaneous

Section A: The Bylaws shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and pursuant to the governing documents and board-adopted policies of the Texas FFA Association and the Area III Association. All references in the Bylaws to statutes, regulations, or other sources of legal authority shall refer to the authorities cited, or their successors, as they may be amended from time to time.

Section B: Legal Construction. If any bylaw provision is held to be invalid, illegal, unenforceable or in conflict with state and/or national constitution, bylaws or policies in any respect, the invalidity, illegality, unenforceability or unconstitutionality shall not affect any other

provision and the bylaws shall be construed as if the invalid, illegal, unenforceable or unconstitutional provision had not been included in the Bylaws.