

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS
AREA X FFA ASSOCIATION
(amended, November 21, 2005)

ARTICLE 1
NAME

Section A: The name of the organization shall be **“The Area X FFA Association”**. Recognized units of the organization may officially use the letters “FFA” and/or the words “Future Farmers of America” to designate the organization, its units and/or members.

ARTICLE II
MISSION AND STRATEGIES

Section A: Mission Statement.

- *FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.*

Section B: To accomplish this mission, the Area X FFA Association...

1. Develop competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
2. Increases awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
3. Strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
5. Encourages achievement in supervised agricultural experience program.
6. Encourages wise management of economic, environmental, and human resources of the community.
7. Develops skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
8. Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
9. Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
10. Promotes healthy lifestyles.
11. Encourage excellence in scholarship.

ARTICLE III
ORGANIZATION

Section A: The Area X FFA Association shall consist of six (6) districts FFA organization and local FFA chapters. Namely...

- District 01-Coastal Bend—including Duval, Jim Wells, Jim Hogg, Kleberg, Nueces counties.
- District 02-La Bahia District—including Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Karnes, Victoria counties.
- District 03-Gateway District—including Aransas, Bee, Live Oak, Refugio, San Patricio, counties.
- District 04-Wintergarden District—including Atascosa, Dimmit, Frio, La Salle, Maverick, Zapata, Zavala counties.
- District 05-Rio Grande Valley District—including Hidalgo, Starr counties.
- District 06-Tip O Tex District—including Cameron, Willacy counties.

ARTICLE IV **MEMBERSHIP**

Section A: Membership in the Area X FFA Organization shall be of three (3) kinds:
Junior, (2) active, (3) honorary.

Section B: Junior Membership

- Active chapters of the Texas FFA Association may form Junior FFA Chapter for the purpose of enhancing and encouraging the education of younger students who are interested in the agricultural industry.
- Membership in the Texas Junior FFA organization shall consist of student enrolled in schools that are in third grade or nine years of age and may continue until they become eligible to enroll in the Agricultural Science and Technology program. Junior members must be affiliated with a chapter in the school district in which they are enrolled unless the school district approves a waiver for out of district students.
- School superintendents must approve and certify in writing for out-of-school students to participate in the junior FFA program(s) of their district....waivers must be submitted annually.
- Each junior FFA chapter shall submit a yearly roster to the State FFA Association that includes name, date of birth, age, grade, address, and social security number.
- Each local chapter can set and collect dues.
- Junior rosters and additions postmarked after December 1 will be required to pay \$3.00 per member.

Section C: Active Membership. See Article V, Section C of the Texas FFA Constitution.

Section D: Honorary Membership. See Article V, Section F of the Texas FFA Constitution.

ARTICLE V **EMBLEM**

Section A: See Article VIII, Section A of the Texas FFA Constitution.

ARTICLE VI **MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES**

Section A: Degrees. See Article VI, Section A of the Texas FFA Constitution.

Section B: Discovery Degree. See Article VI, Section B of the Texas FFA Constitution.

Section C: Greenhand Degree. See Article VI, Section C of the Texas FFA Constitution.

Section D: Chapter FFA Degree. See Article VI, Section D of the Texas FFA Constitution.

Section E: State FFA/Lone Star Farmer Degree. See Article VI, Section E of the Texas FFA Constitution.

Section F: American FFA Degree. See Article VI, Section F of the Texas FFA Constitution.

ARTICLE VII **OFFICERS**

Section A: The officers of Area X FFA Association shall consist of six student officers (one from each district as listed in Article III, Section A) which includes a student president, student 1st vice president, 4 student vice presidents.

Section B: The advisor(s) of the Area President shall serve as the Area Officer Advisor. The Area Officer Advisor shall work closely, coordinate activities with the Area X Advisor at all Area functions that are conducted by the student officer team.

Section C: The Area Advisor shall be elected and/or appointed by the Area X Advisory Committee.

Section D: The officers shall be elected annually and serve only one term.

Section E: Area candidates (state officer nominee, area officer nominee, or talent team) will not be allowed to set up a campaign booth at the Area Convention.

Section F: Handout material or wall posters during the convention are strictly prohibited. This rule will be enforced.

Section G: Any Area-wide materials and/or media, electronic or hard copy which solicits support for or promotes a candidacy is prohibited.

Section H: Area and state officer candidates will not be allowed to use props during their campaign speeches.

Section J: The term of office for Area X officers must be served during the senior year in high school. Members choosing to run for higher office must be a graduating senior or beyond but still an active member of the FFA.

Section K: The Area X officers shall be installed at the Area X FFA Convention.

Section L: Additional officer duties and responsibilities can be found in Appendix A.

Section M: Officer Candidate and parents agreeing to the duties and responsibilities of an Area Officer, as written in Appendix A, must sign the Area X FFA Officer's Contract prior to the Area Election. A copy is filed with the Area Advisor.

Section N: Any officer who becomes ineligible during more than one six-week period shall be asked to resign. A new officer shall be elected and/or appointed from the respective district to replace this officer. If, for any reason, the office of the president should become vacant, the 1st vice-president shall fill the office of the president.

Section O: No area officer may miss more than two Area X functions unless emergency situations arise. These will be determined as “emergency” by the Area X Advisory Executive Committee.

Section P: Area X FFA officers are expected to participate in the following:

1. State FFA Leadership Conference Camp (June)
2. Area X Leadership Conference Camp (June)
3. State FFA Convention (July)
4. Area X Greenhand Conference Camp (September)
5. National FFA Convention if appointed as delegate (October)
6. Area X Leadership Development Event (LDE) (November)
7. Area X Career Development Event (CDE) (April)
8. All Area X Executive Committee meetings (when called)
9. Area X FFA Convention (May)

Section Q: Upon completion of their term of office the area officers may be awarded plaques or other suitable recognition given.

ARTICLE VIII

PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF AREA OFFICERS & STATE OFFICER NOMINEE

Section A: Candidate Evaluation

1. Candidates shall be evaluated and scored on a 100-point scale which includes a written exam score, and interview committee score and a popular vote score. The top four candidates in the area election advancing to the run-off round. Test and interview scores shall be applied to all election rounds. The top scoring candidate in the run-off round shall be area president; the second-place finisher shall be designated as the first vice president.
2. Candidates for area office shall have opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of agricultural education, FFA, parliamentary procedure and the agricultural industry via a written exam administered in accordance to the provisions of this article. The exam shall comprise 20% of the candidate’s score. Tests are scored on a 100-point scale and multiplied by a factor of 0.2. The numerical value that is the difference between the top indexed score and the number 20 shall be added to all scores. The exam score shall be applied in each of the election rounds.
 - a. The test will consist of 100 questions, testing knowledge of the following areas: 50% FFA—will include National FFA and Texas FFA material, 20% agricultural education program, 20% parliamentary procedure and 10 % current agriculture.
 - b. The test will be in scan sheet format. Multiple choice and true/false questions will be administered. Questions will be scored at one (1) point per question.
 - c. There will be no time limit.
 - d. Test will be administered the day prior to election.
3. A committee of agricultural science teachers and or agricultural education stakeholders shall interview each candidate. The interview score shall comprise 30% of the candidate’s score and shall be applied in each of the election rounds.

- a. Each district shall be entitled to select and submit no more than one AST to serve on the evaluation committee. The area coordinator shall reserve the authority to remove a member of the evaluation committee for conflicts of interest or conduct it deems to be detrimental to the selection process.
 - b. 30% of the interview shall be weighted to qualifications expressed in the candidates' application, resume and references. 10% to written communication via writing exercised administered by the evaluation committee and 60% of the interview score shall be derived through a personal interview or series of personal interviews with the candidate. Interviews are scored on a 100-point scale and multiplied by a factor of 0.3. The numerical value that is the difference between the top indexed interview score and the number 30 shall be added to all scores.
 - c. This committee shall prepare and submit one thought/opinion question to be used after each campaign speech.
4. Each candidate shall be given opportunity to present a campaign speech in accordance to the provision of this policy and give an impromptu response to a thought question developed and asked in accordance to the provisions of this policy. The popular vote of the delegate body shall comprise 50% of the candidate score.
- a. Each delegate shall cast two votes in the first round of voting. The total number of votes received by the candidate shall be divided by the total vote cast and multiplied by 100. The numerical difference between the percentage of the top vote-getter and the number 50 shall be added to all vote total percentage.
 - b. Each delegate shall cast one vote in the second round of voting. The total number of votes received by a candidate shall be divided by the total number of votes cast and multiplied by 50 to derive the vote score factor. The numerical difference between the percentage of the top vote-getter and the number 50 shall be added to all vote total percentage.
 - c. Speeches will be a maximum of five minutes in length. Time will be called at the end of the five minutes. Run-off speeches will be a maximum of one minute in length.
 - d. Candidates may use a podium or walk the stage area but may not kneel, squat, or be seated on stage, or leave the stage during their candidate speech. The entire presentation must begin and end on stage.
 - e. One thought question will be asked on stage after each campaign speech.

ARTICLE IX

AREA X FFA MEETINGS

Section A: The Area Association shall hold one meeting annually; namely the Area FFA Convention. Additional meetings may be called if necessary. Called meetings shall be determined by the area president, area advisor(s) and area coordinator as to time and place.

Section B: Each chapter is entitled to send voting delegates from its membership at the Areas Association meeting based on active membership. They are:

- 1 – 50 members..... 1 delegate
- 51 – 100 members..... 2 delegates
- 101 – 150 members..... 3 delegates
- 151 – 200 members.....4 delegates
- 201 – 250 members.....5 delegates
- 251 – 300 members.....6 delegates
- 301 – 350 members.....7 delegates
- 351 – 400 members.....8 delegates

ARTICLE X **AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Section A: The Area X Advisory Committee will serve as the Area X FFA Advisory Council.

ARTICLE XI **DUES**

Section A: Annual membership dues shall be fixed by a majority vote of the delegates attending the area meeting at the area convention and shall not conflict with State and National regulations.

Section B: A chapter shall be considered active and in good standing when they meet the requirements of Area, State and National organizations.

ARTICLE XII **LDE/CDE/SDE**

Section A: All competitive events shall be governed by policies set forth in the Texas FFA Association—Policy Handbook

Section B: Awards shall be determined by the Area Advisory Committee.

ARTICLE XII **AMENDMENTS**

Section A: Proposed amendments to the Area Constitution or by-laws must be submitted in writing to the Area Coordinator at least 60 days prior to any Area meeting. Those proposed changes must in turn be submitted in writing to the local chapters of the Area at least 30 days prior to the next succeeding meeting of the Area Association, be reviewed by the Area Officers and submitted by them to the delegates with recommendations.

Section B: Amendments may be made or revisions made in the Area constitution at the area meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the official delegates present.

Proposal made: October 21, 2005
Adoption: November 21, 2005