

Big Country FFA Association Constitution and By-Laws

Updated: 5-7-25

Article I

Section A: The name and purpose of the organization shall be the Big Country 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 writs, and/or members thereof.

Section B: The purpose of the Big Country FFA Association is the same as outlined in Article II of the State FFA Constitution.

Article II Organization

Section A: The Big Country FFA Association of the Texas FFA Association is the district organization of students of Agricultural Science. It shall consist of local chapters in the Big Country District of Area IV chartered by the state and national associations.

Section B: Members of new Agricultural Science departments shall meet, organize, and adopt a Constitution and By-Laws.

Article III Procedure for Determining Standing of Chapters and Members

Section A: This procedure shall be the same as outlined in Article IV of the State Constitution.

Article IV Membership

Section A: This membership in this organization shall be of three kinds-Active, Alumni, and Honorary.

Active will be defined by Article V, Section C of the State Constitution; Alumni by Article V, Section D; and Honorary by Article V, Section F of the State Constitution.

Article V Active Membership, Degrees, and Privileges

Section A: This will be the same as Article VI sections A, B, C, D, and E of the State FFA Constitution.

Article VI District Degree Check

Section A: Applicants for these awards will submit to their district FFA organization for checking and approval at the spring meeting designated for this purpose. The application, when approved by the district will then be submitted to the area association at the time of the awards and degree check meeting. The area committee will evaluate and select the number of applications to be sent to the state.

Section B: The chairman of the Lone Star FFA Degree Checking Committee in each district will submit all applications from the district on the date of the area awards and degree check meeting to the area committee chairperson. All applications must have been checked by the district committee prior to the area meeting. The area committee will review all applications from districts.

Section C: Applications must be prepared neatly on forms supplied by the state and national associations.

Section D: If you receive two applications for one award and one application is complete and one is not complete, except for the signatures, the one that is complete advances. If there is more than one complete application then they must be judged. If we receive two incomplete applications it will be left to the judges' discretion.

Section E: All books and applications for any award must be present at the district degree check to be considered for an award.

Article VII

Emblem

Section A: This article is the same as the state constitution Article VII, Section A, B, C, and D.

Article VIII Officers

Section A: The officers of the Big Country FFA Association shall be a President and 1st Vice President, and eight other officers. The other officer positions are eight Vice Presidents. The top six candidates will learn the speaking parts for the district banquet. A signed district officer agreement is required to be considered for any office. A signed district officer agreement and all other required documents must be uploaded seven days before the convention. The Big Country FFA President and other officers shall be elected at the District meeting by a majority vote of the delegates. Speeches by the candidates will only be given once and will be limited to 2 ½ minutes. If a run-off speech is needed, they will be limited to 1 minute.

“No props shall be used”(This includes notecards). No campaigning of any sort is allowed. Each school may run 3 candidates through an interview and test process but only two may advance to the top ten. The top ten candidates will be determined by 50% of their test scores and 50 % of their interview scores. If a candidate's scores result in a tie it will be broken by the interview score. The top ten candidates will advance to the speech level and be voted upon. Delegates will be required to vote for two nominees in the primary election. The voting delegates will vote for the two candidate choices.

The top 10 candidates will be elected by a combined score consisting of test scores, interviews, and popular votes. The test will account for 1/3 of the candidate's score, the interview will account for 1/3 and the vote will account for 1/3. The top 10 candidates will be ranked from highest score to lowest, with the President having the highest combined score. The candidate receiving the highest score total will be declared President and the candidate receiving the second highest score will be declared First Vice president and so on. There will be no runoff election unless necessary due to a tie score.

Area/District candidate's interviews and tests will be completed before the Big Country District Convention. Scheduling tests/interviews will be left to the discretion of the President/District Advisor no more than a week before the district convention.

Section B: If for any reason, a student office becomes vacant, the remaining officers should be bumped up in their ranking of office. The vacant officer position should be replaced by the next highest candidate, if it occurs within the fall semester.

Section C: At a district meeting preceding the Area IV convention, each district will select two (2) candidates. The same guidelines will take effect as district officers with the exception of delegates only voting for one candidate. After the president is selected, the other candidates for president become Area Vice Presidents.

Section D: The officers shall be elected annually and can serve no more than one full term. District-wide materials will be brought with them to the District elections. No handout materials or posters will be allowed.

Section E: Big Country officers must hold at least the Greenhand FFA Degree and must have been active in their local chapter. They must be in high school during the year in which they serve as District Officers.

Section F: The Big Country FFA Officers shall be installed at the District convention.

Section G: State officer nominees will follow state guidelines.

Article IX Procedure for Election of Student Officers

Section A: The Area Officers and the candidate for state officer from the district will be selected and nominated annually by the district organization.

Section B: If for any reason a student office becomes vacant, the district from which the vacancy occurs shall elect another student officer who received the second highest number of votes in the election for President shall become President.

Section C: Voting delegates are required to sign in and wear a delegate badge.

Section D: Voting has to be a ballot.

Section E: If a voting delegate does not vote how they are instructed to do so, that ballot will be inadmissible.

Section F: All candidates are required to wear official dress.

Article X Meetings and Conventions

Section A: A District Convention (Meeting) shall be held annually except in case of extreme emergency as declared by the governing body.

Section B: Each local chapter is entitled to send delegates from its active chapter membership to the District Convention (Meeting) based upon the following:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Voting Delegates</u>
1-50	1
51-100	2
101-150	3
151-200	4
201-250	5
251-300	6
301-350	7
351-400	8
401-450	9
451-500	10

Article XI Committees

Section A: The President and /or Advisor of the Big Country FFA shall appoint the various committees that are necessary in carrying out the total program of work for the District Association.

Article XII Executive Committee

Section A: The District Executive Committee shall be composed of the District President, District Vice President, District Secretary, District Treasure, Advisor of the District President, and District Leadership Coordinator.

Section B: The District Executive Committee shall review decisions and proposals of the FFA Association and the Texas Education final authority in all matters pertaining to the District Association within the policies of the State FFA Association and the Texas Education Agency.

Section C: The District Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year at the time and place designated by the President.

Section D: The Committee may designate the Chairperson and two members of the Executive Committee as a governing committee, when the Committee is not in session, and shall have and exercise the powers of the Committee subject to its confirmation.

Section E: District president will stay in office for 2 years and will be replaced by the District Vice President, which will be replaced by the District Secretary. We will elect a new District Secretary every 2 years. The Treasurer will hold their position until relinquished by the individual or voted out of office.
Section F: If an officer leaves/resigns all positions will move up and a new secretary will be elected and fill the position (the newly elected officer will stay in rotation till the end of all terms in office)

Article XIII Dues

Section A: Annual membership dues in the District organization shall be fixed by a majority vote of the Ag Teachers present at a district meeting. The FFA membership year shall be from November 1-October 31

Article XIV Amendments

Section A: Proposed amendments to the District Constitution and By-Laws must be submitted in writing to the District President and Executive Committee at least 30 days prior to any District Advisors and Student Officer Fall Meeting. These finalized amendments must be submitted in writing to the local chapters of the district at least fifteen days before the next succeeding area convention. Amendments may be adopted and/or revisions made to the Area Constitution and By-Laws at any area convention by a two-thirds vote of the official delegates present. must be released to the chapters of the districts 15 days before the District Convention

Article XV Parliamentary Procedure

Section A: Jarrell D. Gary's "Parliamentary Guide from the FFA" shall be used as the Final authority governing actions of all District meetings.

Section B: The acting Parliamentarian for all District meetings shall be the District FFA President.

Article XVI Talent

Section A: Will follow current state-level talent contest rules, one winner will be selected by plurality vote.

Section B: Talent rehearsal will be closed.

Article XVII District Advisor Duties

The teacher of the district president will serve as the district advisor. The advisor will be responsible for hosting and planning the district convention and scheduling district officer meetings.