Cen-Tex District FFA

**Constitution & By-Laws**

Amendments adopted at Student Meeting on September 21, 2011

Revised April 27, 1999

Revised September 16, 2008

Revised May 2006

# *Article1: Name & Purpose*

**Section A**: The name of this organization shall be the Cen-Tex District FFA. Members are hereby referred to as FFA members.

**Section B:** The Purposes for which the Cen-Tex District has been formed are as follows.

1. To develop competent, aggressive rural & agriculture leadership.
2. To create & nurture a love of the country life.
3. To strengthen the confidence of young men & woman in themselves & their work.
4. To create more interest in the intelligent choice of agriculture occupations, & careers.
5. To encourage members in the development of individual agriculture programs.
6. To encourage members to improve their local environment, home & it’s surroundings.
7. To participate in worthy undertakings for the improvement of agriculture.
8. To develop character, improve culture, train for useful citizenship, & foster patriotism.
9. To participate in cooperative effort.
10. To encourage & practice thrift.
11. To provide & encourage the development of organized rural recreational activities.
12. To provide & encourage the development of organized rural recreational activities.

## Article 2: Organization

**Section A:**

The Cen-Tex District FFA is a member of Area VII Association & Texas FFA Association, which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

**Section 8:** The Cen-Tex District is accepts, in full, the provisions in the constitution & by- laws of the Texas FFA Association, as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

## Article 3 Membership

**Section A:** Membership in the Cen-Tex District is open to any school with an Agricultural Education Department meeting the requirements set up by the state constitution & residing in the Cen-Tex District.

## Article 4: Emblem

**Section A:** The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem of the Cen-Tex District

**Section B:** Emblems used by the Cen-Tex District shall be designed by the National FFA Organization.

## Article 5: Meetings

**SectionA:** Regular meetings will include fall & spring meetings and Cen-Tex District Convention. The AgriScience teachers at their summer professional improvement conference will designate the dates. Special meetings of AgriScience teachers or district offices may be called as needed. The district advisor should be informed of any district officer meetings.

**Section B:** Standard meeting paraphernalia will be used at each meeting. Standard ceremonies and Jarrell D. Gray’s Parliamentary Procedure will be used.

**Section C:** Meetings concerning district business will be designated and delegates should be present to transact business. These delegates are specified by the State Constitution.

**Section D:** A majority of the chapters listed in the Secretaries roll of membership will constitute a quorum and this quorum must be present at any regular meeting of which business is transacted or a vote taken committing the Cen-Tex District to any proposal.

# *Article 6: Dues*

**Section A**: Dues for the Cen-Tex District will be .25 cents per member from each chapter.

**Section B:** Chapters will be considered as active and in good standing when District, Area, States, and National dues are paid in full. All Fall semester dues are to be paid by November 1st and Spring semester dues are to be paid by March 1st. Full payment of dues must be mailed to the Cen-Tex District Teacher Treasurer.

## Article 7: Amendments

**Section A:** This constitution may be changed or altered at any regular Cen-Tex District meeting by two-thirds vote of chapters present, providing it is not in conflict with the State or National FFA Organization. Notice of proposed changes to the constitution must be sent to each chapter a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting in which the changes will be voted.

**Section B:** By-Laws may be adopted to fit the need of the Cen-Tex District at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the chapter president, providing such By-Laws do not conflict with State or National FFA Organization. Notice of proposed changes to the By-Laws must be sent to each chapter a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting in which the changes will be voted.

### BY-LAWS

## Article 1: Fiscal Year

**Section A:** The fiscal year will be from August 1st to July 31st of the following year.

## Article 2: Program Activities

**Section A:**  Cen-Tex District Officers will develop a program of activities listing official district functions to include fall & spring meeting, district banquet, & district leadership contest. Other functions officers may decide on should also be included. All expenses will be pre-approved by the executive committee.

## Article 3: Executive Committee

**Section A:** The Executive Committee will consist of the district officers & their advisors. For those schools having more than one advisor, only one will be eligible to vote.

**Section B:** The Executive Committee will have full power to act as necessary for the district in accordance with actions taken at district meetings & various regulations or By-Laws adopted from time to time.

## Article 4: Cen-Tex District officers

**Section A:** Cen-Tex District Officers will consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, & Sentinel. The Advisor of the Cen-Tex District is the Advisor of the elected President.

**Section B:** Cen-Tex District Officer candidates must have met the qualifications for the Chapter FFA Degree during their year of service. Candidates must have been an active FFA member for the entire current school year. Candidates must be completing at least their second calendar year of high school (9th-12th grade) i.e.-August through May, and must be enrolled in high school for the duration of their office.

**Section C:** Officers will be elected annually by a majority of delegates present at the spring district meeting. The officers shall be elected by a combination of exam score 20%, interview score 30%, and a score derived from the vote of the delegates present 50%.The District officer election process will be examined and modified annually by the Executive Committee and will be available 30 days prior to the District Convention. The election process is as follows.

1. Each chapter may send two district officer candidates.
2. Officer candidates must complete and submit an application verifying their qualifications prior to running for office.
3. Each officer candidate should be prepared to pass an exam using the study guide and reference material for the State Senior Quiz LDE.
4. Each officer candidate should be prepared to give a speech, and answer a thought question. The speech time limit is a maximum of 3 minutes.
5. Round 1 of voting: Each delegate will have 2 votes. By majority votes, the candidate field will be narrowed to six candidates using the percentages: 20% exam score, 30% interview score, and 50% from a score derived from the vote of the delegates present.
6. Round 2 of Voting: Each delegate will have 1 vote. The vote will be inserted into the formula again and the highest score will become the President, the runner-up will be Vice-President, and additional offices continue in descending order of scores.
7. Officers will assume their duties upon officer installation at the Cen-Tex District Convention*.*
8. After installation all officers must sign a contract promising to fulfill all of their duties & engage in proper behavior at all times.
9. If for any reason a student office becomes vacant, the executive committee shall fill the office with a qualified officer from the slate of officer candidates at the immediately prior elections. 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.
10. Student officers shall serve from one student convention through the next succeeding convention and shall not be re-elected, or be eligible for re-election to another Cen-Tex District student office.

***Article 5: Area & State Officer Candidate***

**Section A:** Each chapter may send unlimited Area VII and State officer candidates. The district will not limit the number of candidates who may apply for Area VII or State FFA office.

**Section B:** All Area officer candidates must hold the Chapter FFA Degree, must be completing at least their second year in high school, & must be enrolled in high school for the duration of their office.

**Section C:** All states officer candidates must hold the Lone Star FFA Degree at the time of their election to state office.

**Section D:** All Area & state officer candidates must complete an application verifying their qualifications prior to running for office.

**Section E:** All area & state officer candidates will follow guidelines for area and state officer elections.

***Article 6: Jackets and Camp***

**Section A:** The District will pay for the District Officers’ jacket and one unified officer team shirt.

**Section B:** The District will pay for the district officer’s Area VII Leadership camp fees.

***Article 7: Contests***

**Section A:** Fees and Awards

1. Fees will be paid according to instructions on the entry form distributed by the Cen-Tex District Treasurer
2. Awards will be given in the following manner:
   1. three awards in events with five or less teams
   2. four awards for events with six to ten teams
   3. five awards in events with greater than eleven teams.

**Section B:** Career Development events will be held in conjunction with the Area Contests. The Cen-Tex District will follow the rules set up by the state Organization regarding number of teams and members.

**Section C:**  Leadership Development Events will be conducted in accordance to State and National Rules at the Cen-Tex District contests in the fall.

**Section D:** Public and Extemporaneous Speaking Leadership Development Events will be held at the same time as the Cen-Tex District Check in the Spring. State and National Rules regarding these events will be used.

**Section E:** Talent Contest will be held at the Cen-Tex District Convention. State rules regarding this event will be followed.

**Section F:** Two sweepstakes awards will be given. One for Career Development Events, and one for Leadership Development Advents. The Cen-Tex Ag Teacher Secretary is responsible for obtaining placing and Calculating Sweepstakes winners. Rules for calculating Sweepstakes Winners are as follows.

1. The first five teams will receive the following points for each contest: All teams placing sixth or below will receive one point for each participation.

1st Place --- 10 points

2nd Place --- 8 points

3rd Place --- 6 points

4th Place --- 4 points

5th Place --- 2 points

1. The school with the most points will be the winner of the sweepstakes award. In the event of a tie, the school with the most first place teams will be declared the winner. If a tie still remains, the school with the most second place teams will be declared the winner.
2. Leadership Development Events and Career Development Events: Will conducted in accordance to State and National Rules at the Cen-Tex district contest

# Article 8: Cen-Tex District Degree Check

**Section A:** The following accomplishments will be awarded at districted check and recognized at district banquet. All awards will be based on the State Organization Rules. Star Awards Greenhands, Chapter, State, American, including Production and Agribusiness), Proficiency, and scholarships candidates. Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events winning teams will also be recognized at district banquet.

**Article 9: Delegate Apportionment**

**Section A:** Chapter voting delegates will be apportioned using the following scale:

1 to 100 members = 2 voting delegates

101 to 150 members = 3 voting delegates

151 to 200 members = 4 voting delegates

201 to 250 members = 5 voting delegates

251 to 300 members = 6 voting delegates

301 to 350 members = 7 voting delegates