

Things in blue are on the original constitution but not on the state template.
Things highlighted in yellow are on the state template but we're not on our original constitution.

What is crossed out on policy with replacement wording is a proposed amendment to the original Hill District Policy

BYLAWS

Of the Hill District FFA

Adopted:

These bylaws (referred to as the “Bylaws”) govern the affairs of the Hill District FFA (referred to as the “district”), a recognized district administrative subdivision of the Texas FFA Association, organized under the provisions the governing documents and policies of the Area VII Association (referred to as the “area”), Texas FFA Constitution and 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 Texas FFA Association Constitution, Bylaws, policies adopted by the Texas FFA Association Board of Directors, provisions of the area association governing documents and policies enacted by the area association. The district shall cooperate with Texas FFA Association, Texas Education Agency, area executive committee and local school district officials in accomplishing its purposes.

The purposes for which this Hill District has been formed are as follows:

1. To develop competent and assertive agricultural leaders.
2. To develop an awareness of the global importance of agriculture and its contribution to society.
3. To strengthen the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. To promote the intelligent choice and establishment of an Agriculture career.
5. To stimulate development & encourage achievement in individual agricultural experience programs.
6. To improve the economic, environmental, recreational and human resources of the district.
7. To develop competencies in communications, human relations and social abilities.
8. To develop character, train for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism.
9. To build cooperative attitudes among agricultural students.
10. To encourage wise management of resources.
11. To encourage improvement in scholarship.
12. To provide organized recreational activities for agricultural students.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section A: The district shall be comprised of active chapters in good standing chartered by the Texas FFA Association formed under the provisions of the Article IV, Section C of the Texas FFA Association Bylaws and pursuant to policies adopted by the area association and district. Student members of the district shall be active members of good standing pursuant to Article V of the Texas FFA Constitution, and member chapters shall be in good standing pursuant to Article II, Section B of these Bylaws.

Section B: A chapter shall be considered to be in good standing when all required dues and administrative fees have been paid to the district and to the area and state associations in accordance with the provisions of the governing documents and policies of the respective associations and the chapter has no delinquent debts as defined by area and state policies.

Section C: Chapters in the Hill District FFA include:

Blanco, Boerne, Boerne Champion, Center Point, Comfort, Fredericksburg, Harper, Ingram, Johnson City, Kerrville

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 shall be applied by the district in ways consistent with policies of the National FFA Organization and the Texas FFA Association.

ARTICLE IV

Student 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 said convention shall be held prior to the area convention.

Section B: Special meetings may be called by the executive committee. 10 working days notice shall be required to call any special meeting.

Section C: Each chapter in good standing is entitled to seat one voting delegate and shall be entitled to one additional voting delegate per 50 active members above the first 50 active members duly submitted on its annual roster by the delegate membership deadline established by the Texas FFA Association. 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: Meetings of the district may be called via telephone conference call or other similar method, provided that each participating student delegate is identified by name and chapter and that all delegates may be heard and participate simultaneously.

Section F: 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. The officers of the Hill District shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and Student Advisor.

Section B: The Advisor(s) of the elected Hill District President shall serve as Hill District Advisor and will be in charge of the District Officer team at all official functions. All teachers of the Hill District Officers are to assist in planning and participating in all District functions. Officers shall perform the usual duties of the respective officers as listed in the Official FFA Manual.

Section C: Officers shall be elected annually at the Hill District Banquet.

Section D: Hill District officers must hold the Chapter Degree and have satisfactory scholastic standing and a commendable citizenship and conduct record.

Section E: Each Chapter in the Hill District is allowed only one candidate for office per school year. On the occasion that an officer moves from one chapter in the district to another chapter in the district, that officer could retain his/her office for that school year.

Section F: In the event of an officer moving out of the Hill District the remaining officers will move up to the next officer position. In the rare occasion that more than one officer, move away from the district, that office shall remain empty for that school year.

Section G: In the event that there are not enough candidates to fill all of the positions, a chapter may have more than one candidate. Once a candidate is elected from that chapter, the other candidate(s) will not be considered for a position until all other chapters with candidates are represented as officers.

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

ARTICLE VI

Teacher Meetings

Section A: An assembly of district teachers shall be convened annually at the state ATAT professional improvement conference. Other teacher meetings may be convened as deemed essential or desirable by the teacher assembly or the executive committee.

Section B: Special meetings may be called by the executive committee. Except in cases of extreme emergency, 10 working days notice shall be required to call any special meeting.

Section C: Each agriculture, food and natural resources teacher in good standing is entitled to cast a vote in the business of the district.

Section D: A quorum shall exist when teachers representing a majority of chapters are convened in assembly or by electronic means as described in Article VI, Section E.

Section E: Teacher meetings of the district may be called via telephone conference call or other similar method, provided that each participating teacher is identified by name and chapter and that all delegates may be heard and participate simultaneously.

Section F: 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 VII

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, consolidate the secretary and treasurer positions and in doing so shall define respective duties and terms of office. All teacher officers serve without pay, volunteering their time and efforts for the benefit of the district.

Section C: No person is eligible to be a teacher 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, area and state associations and National FFA Organization and is a member in good standing with the state's professional association that represents agriculture, food and natural resources teachers.

Section D: Excepting the student officer advisor, teacher officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the association's teachers present at the regularly scheduled and posted meeting 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 may 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 are followed completely and shall present a proposed annual budget to the district teachers at the regularly scheduled and posted meeting.

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 chapter shall designate one advisor to serve in this capacity. The student officer advisor shall coordinate student officer activities including but not limited to facilitating and overseeing the student portion of the district's annual convention and other student meetings and workshops.

ARTICLE VIII

Executive Committee

Section A: The elected teacher officers, student officer advisor and the student district president or other designated student officer 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. Student officers may be excluded in proceedings of the executive committee in matters which involve sensitive information to which it is not appropriate for students to be privy. The exclusion of the student representative must be approved by a unanimous vote of the adult members of the executive committee and be reflected in the minutes of the deliberations.

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 members present and voting. The secretary or president shall mail by regular first class mail or by e-mail a copy of the agenda to each member at his or her address as shown on the record of the district, in the Texas FFA Association's Roster Management System or other data repository designated by the district, no later than one week prior to the date of the said meeting. The one-week notice may be suspended by a third-thirds 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 is 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.

Section F: The executive committee will handle all grievances at the district level and provide information to the chapters in the district

ARTICLE IX

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 vacancy, 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: With the advice and consent of the district's executive committee, the student officer president shall have the authority to appoint student committees to operate within the authority of the district's 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: Half 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 a quorum present and voting.

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 bylaws or policies or with the policies of the area and/or Texas FFA Association.

ARTICLE X

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 by a majority vote of the executive committee.

Section C: Any teacher 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 XI Dues and Fees

Section A: Annual membership dues shall be fixed by a majority vote of the student delegates assembled at the annual convention or other posted meeting. Chapters shall be notified in writing of a proposed dues change no later than 30 days prior to the meeting at which such dues changes are to be deliberated and considered by the student delegates.

Section B: The district may levy additional fees to offset operational expenses. Additional fees must be approved by a majority vote of the student delegates assembled at the annual convention or other posted meeting. 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. This provision is not to be construed to apply to fees charged for user-based activities such as but not limited to contests, workshops, conventions and social activities, but only to administrative fees charged to all chapters.

Section C: Chapters will be considered as active and in good standing when District, Area, State and National dues are paid in full. All fall dues are to be paid by November 1st and Spring dues paid by March 1st. A copy of the chapter's roster and check must be mailed to the Hill District Treasurer.

Article XII Grievance and Appeals

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

Article XIII Amendments

Section A: Except as described Section B of this Article, proposed amendments to the district's bylaws may be proposed by the executive committee or student officers or by the members of any two chapters. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the district's executive committee no later than 45 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 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 state and national constitution or bylaws, state or national FFA policy or other provisions of these bylaws.

Section B: Amendments related to Articles VI and VII of these Bylaws may be proposed by any agriculture, food and natural resources teacher in good standing and must be submitted to the executive committee no less than 30 days prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be considered and submitted to the teacher membership no later than 14 days prior to being considered. Amendments described in this section may be approved by a two-thirds vote of the votes cast by the teachers assembled in accordance to Article VI of these Bylaws.

Article XIII
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 XIV
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. 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 area, state and/or national constitutions, 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.

Hill District Policy
Updated 8/4/2021

Article I: FISCAL YEAR

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

Article II: DISTRICT OFFICER ELECTIONS

Section A: District Officer Voting Process

The election process for Hill District Officers is as follows:

- a. Each chapter may have one district officer candidate.
- b. Each candidate must present a speech no longer than 2 minutes to the delegate assembly at the spring banquet/meeting. Candidates will not be given a test or be asked questions.
- c. Officers will be elected by a plurality vote of voting delegates present at the spring banquet/meeting.
- d. Voting – Each voting delegate will get two votes to cast for officer candidates.
 - i. The executive/balloting committee, will determine the need for runoff elections based on balloting results
 - ii. If a runoff election is deemed necessary, candidates will be allowed 1 minute for a follow-up campaign speech.
 - iii. In runoff elections, each voting delegate will get to cast one vote.

Section B: Officer Qualifications

1. All officer candidates are to know and agree to abide by the FFA Code of Ethics.
2. All officer candidates are to have knowledge of The Mission and Strategies of the FFA Organization.
3. All officer candidates are to have commendable citizenship and conduct records.
4. All officer candidates shall have their official FFA dues paid.
5. District officer candidates must be passing all Agricultural Science courses and must have passed all Agricultural Science courses taken the semester immediately preceding officer elections.
6. All officer candidates are to have a sincere desire to carry out the duties of the office to which they are elected.
7. Officer candidates must be a sophomore in high school at the time of being elected. (insert -

at least hold the chapter degree)

Section C: District Officer Duties:

1. All officers are to carry out their duties as outlined in the official FFA Manual and as assigned by the President and approved by the Advisors
2. Other Officer duties include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Hill District Kick-off
 - b. Hand out and announce awards at the
 - i. District Land, Range, Plant ID & Homesite CDE
 - ii. District Leadership Contest
 - c. District Degree Check and Banquet
 - d. Area VII Convention
 - e. Area VII Leadership Camp

Section D: Term of Office

The terms of office shall be for one year, ending after the newly elected officers are installed at the District Banquet.

Section E. Removal from Office

1. Officers may be removed from office for failing to meet the qualifications stated in the constitution.
2. Officers must meet the same qualifications for holding office the second school semester as they did when elected; otherwise their term of office will expire.
3. An officer will be entitled to a full and impartial review and hearing by the executive committee. They may be temporarily or permanently dismissed from office. A decision will be based upon the facts.

Section F: JACKETS

The Hill District Association will pay for one official Hill District FFA Officer Jacket for each elected officer. Jackets will be ordered by the Advisor serving as District Treasurer.

Article III. GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Membership may be temporarily or permanently denied for failure to abide by the Code of Ethics.

Article IV: AREA AND STATE OFFICER ELECTIONS

Section A:

Starting with the 2015-2016 school year the area officer selection process will follow current Area VII FFA Constitution and By Laws.

Section B:

State officer selection will follow the current State FFA Constitution and By Laws.

Article V. OFFICIAL FFA CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

Each individual member takes upon themselves the responsibility of wearing official clothing and accessories with dignity and pride so as not to reflect any bad criticism upon

himself/herself, the chapter, the FFA Organization, or the Hill District.

ARTICLE VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Each individual FFA member is to realize that they are a personal representative of Hill District FFA. The image of their chapter and the Hill District and communities within the Hill District are reflected through and by them as an individual. Aim for and achieve excellence.

ARTICLE VII: DISTRICT CONTESTS

Section A: Fees

Fees for all contests are \$10.00 per contest entered. There will be a late entry fee of three times the original entry.

Section B: Awards

The top three teams in each contest will receive a plaque. If only one team is entered per contest, no plaques will be distributed.

Section C: District Events

1. All District contests will follow Area and State CDE/LDE/SDE Rules:
2. Fall CDE Events will include Land, Range, Plant ID and Homesite. A separate Hill District Contest will be set up. There is no limit on the number of contestants a school may enter in these events at the district level. The 3 highest scoring contestants will count towards the team total and the 4 highest scoring contestants will be the only contestants eligible for individual awards from that school. This same format will also be used for the Jr. and Sr. Quiz LDE's at the district level.
3. All other CDE events will be held in conjunction with the Area Contests. If there is no Area Contest, the State Contest will be used.
4. Leadership Development Events will be conducted during the fall.
5. Speaking events will be held during degree check in the spring.
6. The FFA Talent Contest will be held during the spring District FFA Banquet.
7. All student, chapter and ATAT awards will be selected at the Hill District Degree check in the spring.

Section D: Sweepstakes

An overall CDE and LDE Sweepstakes winner will be recognized each year.

Scoring will be as follows:

1. A maximum of five points will be awarded per event.
2. Teams will be given points as follows:
 - 1st - 5 pts
 - 2nd - 4 pts
 - 3rd - 3 pts
 - 4th - 2 pts
 - 5th - 1 pt

3. If there are not at least five teams participating, points will be reduced according to the number of teams that participated. For example: if 3 teams competed, the points will be 3 for 1st, 2 for 2nd, and 1 for 3rd.
4. The school with the most points wins.
5. In the event of a tie, the team with the most 1st places will be the winner. (or 2nd, 3rd, etc.)