

Recap of Changes for Advisors From the 2019 First Quarter Board of Directors Meeting

POLICY/RULE UPDATES:

Please review changes approved at the First Quarter Board of Director's meeting that may pertain to your chapter's participation. Please be sure to always reference the most current posted documents when preparing for any competitive event/award process.

ADA Accommodation Request Application

Beginning Fall of 2019, advisors will need to formally request accommodations for any student needing assistance during Texas FFA competitive events. We are hopeful that this will help our providers prepare materials accordingly and have additional volunteers ahead of time so they don't have last minute requests the day of the event. The application and process information can be found here: <https://www.texasffa.org/pages.aspx?ID=1180>

Career Development Events (CDE)

No updates to report

Leadership Development Events (LDE)

- **Agricultural Advocacy:** The BOD approved to align the Agricultural Advocacy set up/tear down and presentation time limit point penalty with other LDE events. These changes have been made to the rules and have been posted both on the Ag Advocacy webpage and on the main LDE page in the Complete LDE Rules Handbook.

Approved Language: " -10 points per minute or major fraction thereof for being less than 5 minutes or over 8 minutes. A major fraction of a minute is defined as 31 seconds."

- **Leadership Guide/District Study Guide:** (This item did not go before the BOD since this was a typo that didn't need approval) A clerical error was found and has been corrected in both documents on page 14. The 2019 Young Farmer President's name was incorrect and has been corrected to Clovia Ketchum of San Saba. Please make sure you reference the new document uploaded 9/10/19 when studying for all related events and officer tests.

Speaking General Rules:

The BOD approved recommended changes to clarify language within the Speech Composition Indicator portion of the rubrics by removing the word 'Spelling' and inserting the words 'in the Oral Presentation'. Indicator will be changed as follows in the Sr. Prepared, Jr. Prepared, & Soil Stewardship rubrics:

SPEECH COMPOSITION - Grammatical Accuracy (20 points possible)						
Indicators	Very strong evidence the skill is present: 5-4	Moderate evidence the skill is present: 3-2	Evidence the skill is not present: 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Spelling/ Grammar in the ORAL PRESENTATION (sentence structure, verb agreement, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar is extremely high quality, with 2 or fewer errors in the speech. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar is adequate with 3-5 errors in the speech. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar is less than adequate with 6 or more errors in the speech. 		X 4	

Scholarship Policy:

All items that were recommended to the BOD from the Scholarship Advisory Committee were sent to the BOD Scholarship Process Review Committee comprised of 7 Board Members, 1 State FFA Officer and 1 Staff member. All decisions will be presented in January at the 2nd Quarter BOD meeting.

Agriscience Fair General Rules:

Approved language Rule #1: “Students must complete the online application and upload the research paper and/or any related documents on www.theaet.com using the National FFA AgriScience Fair Written Report Template for Division 1-2 and/or the AgriScience Fair Written Report Template for Division 3-6. Teachers must approve the student’s application on www.theaet.com. Teachers must also pay the \$60 entry fee for each entry on the registration website www.judgingcard.com. The completed/teacher approved application, uploaded documents and entry fee are due no later than 11:59 p.m., 21 days prior to check-in on Monday at convention. DUE TO THE PRE-EVENT JUDGING SCHEDULE, LATE ENTRIES CANNOT BE ACCEPTED. For additional details, please contact Dr. Rudy Ritz, the Texas FFA Agriscience Fair Superintendent (rudy.ritz@ttu.edu or 806.742.2816).

Approved language Rule #8: “The complete display, which includes methods of attaching as needed (easel, stand, etc.,) cannot exceed the dimensions of:

- 38 inches high (from top of table to top of display)
- 50 inches wide
- 30 inches deep (the distance from front to back)

The display must consist of a stable, free-standing display board on the provided table top not to exceed the sizes outlined above. No props, logbooks, handouts, or electronics are permitted. No tablets, iPads, cell phones, or other electronic devices will be permitted. Internet access will not be provided.

Approved language to be added Rule #11: Applications and reports will be checked for plagiarism. An agriscience fair project must be the result of a student’s own effort and ability. However, in securing information such as direct quotes or phrases, specific dates, figures or other materials, that information must be marked and identified appropriately.

Student researcher(s) may not

- In any way falsify a permission form, scientific paper or display.
- Use another person’s results or thoughts as their own even with the permission of this person. This includes work done by a family member or a mentor.
- Use information or data obtained from the internet without proper citation.
- Re-enter a project with only minor changes.

Non - compliance represents plagiarism and will automatically disqualify a participant(s).

Approved language Rule #12: “Results will be announced at an awards reception on Wednesday open to all agriscience participants, their advisors and parents. First place winners will be recognized at the Wednesday general session and should follow instructions seating instructions given at the banquet. Winners should report to awards seating section 15 minutes prior to the start of the session.

Selection Procedure for Degree Candidates, Students & Chapter Awards (Degree Check)

Policy:

Approved language Policy 26.4 (d): “(d) Twenty-five (25) hours of community service within at least two different community service activities. Community service is defined as a volunteer opportunity working for others where there is no benefit to the FFA chapter. For the purpose of obtaining a degree in Texas, faith-based community service may be counted. Note: Members pursuing the American FFA Degree will need to verify the type of service hours that are considered acceptable by the National FFA at the time of application.

*** The Lone Star Degree checklist used for checking all Lone Star Degrees at the 2019 State Degree Check held in Stephenville has been revised. The REVISED Lone Star Degree checklist (2020 Lone Star Degree Checklist) can be found here: <https://www.texasffa.org/degree-check> .

The Texas FFA Board of Directors voted to allow the members of Texas FFA to consider the following Constitutional Amendment at the 2020 Texas FFA State Convention.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment Section E: “As of ~~April 1~~ **May 15**, have completed ten activities above the chapter level in at least three of six different categories: leadership development events, career development events, conventions and meetings, project shows, student awards and leadership and service as described in policies adopted by the Board of Directors. As of ~~April 1~~ **May 15** of the year the member is to receive the degree, have participated in at least 25 hours of community service within at least two different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.”

Approved language Policy 26.4 (a): “As of April 1, candidates must meet minimum qualifications for the degree as listed in the Texas FFA Association Constitution. Applicants must have been FFA members for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree **and must have maintained a satisfactory SAE for each year of membership as outlined in the Texas FFA and National FFA Constitutions Article VI, Degrees and Privileges of Membership, Sections C**, (a) As of April 1, candidates must meet minimum qualifications for the degree as listed in the Texas FFA Association Constitution. Applicants must have been FFA members for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree. Texas qualifications may exceed certain minimum qualifications listed in the National FFA Constitution. (a) As of April 1, candidates must meet minimum qualifications for the degree as listed in the Texas FFA Association Constitution. Applicants must have been FFA members for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree. Texas qualifications may exceed certain minimum qualifications listed in the National FFA Constitution, **E, F and each year of enrollment in an AFNR course as outlined in the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 130, Subchapter**. Texas qualifications may exceed certain minimum qualifications listed in the National FFA Constitution.