

Recap of Changes for Advisors From the 2018 1st 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. ***In addition to what is listed below, there were other administrative language changes that you can review on your own that are not notated below***. Please be sure to always reference the most current posted documents when preparing for any competitive event/award process. All policies have been updated and can be found here: <https://www.texasffa.org/policy>.

CDE General Rules:

General Rule 17: "Communication devices (cell phones, tablets, smart watches, fitness trackers, etc.) shall **NOT be allowed in the possession** of the contestant during the duration of the contest."

- 1) General Rule 19: "*Contestants will be given a 10-minute period at the end of the event to complete their scantron.*" This 10-minute time frame should take place at the end of the last rotation while participants are still in their groups. At the end of the 10 minutes, the group leader will collect the scantrons and excuse the participants.
- 2) CDE General Rules can be found [here](#)

Scholarship Policy:

- 1) The number of minimum finalists/recipients per area was changed from 8 to 7.
Policy 22.3 (i) "*The number of finalists shall be equal to the number of scholarships available. No area shall be awarded less than seven finalists*" (this number was reduced from eight in previous years).
- 2) Scholarship Policy can be found [here](#)

Agriscience Fair General Rules:

Language was updated to clarify application and registration websites are different. Entry fee was increased from \$50 to \$60:

*"Students must complete the online application and upload any related documents on www.theaet.com. 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/approved application and entry fee is due no later than 11:59pm, 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)."*

- 1) ASF General Rules can be found [here](#)

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

- 1) Final Submission time for all applications will be 3:00pm on Wednesday at Degree Check. No corrections will be made to any application after it's been turned in (except for the American Degree).
Policy 26.2 (d & e) "*Applications and records must be submitted for awards must be submitted/checked into the headquarters room no later than 3:00pm on Wednesday at the*

Texas FFA Degree Check. No corrections can be made (by advisors, students, committee members or staff) to an application once it has been checked in."

- 2) Language was added regarding plagiarism.
Policy 26.2 (c) *"All applications and records submitted for awards shall be the work of the individual student(s) applying for said award(s). Applications and records submitted for recognition of honors and awards will be reviewed for plagiarism. Any application(s) and/or record(s) found to be plagiarized will be disqualified, which will result in the revocation of all awards and scholarships pertaining to the award/degree in question."*
- 3) National Chapter Awards will now be ranked as three-star, two-star, one-star, instead of gold, silver, bronze.
Policy 26.9 (c) *"Form II Applications shall be ranked using methods and standards as near to national standards as possible and rate each application as Three Star, Two Star, or One Star."*
- 4) Golden Horizon will add an additional division to allow for schools with four or more advisors and will be ranked Division I (single teacher), Division II (two or 3 advisors), or Division III (four or more advisors).
Policy 26.10 (f) *"Applications for the Golden Horizon Award will be submitted as Division I, Division II, or Division III."*
- 5) Degree & Awards Policy can be found [here](#).

Speaking General Rules:

- 1) An abstract will be a required document for submission
 - 2) All documents will be uploaded in PDF format separately (not as one single 'Manuscript')
 - 3) If all requirements (uploads and submission) are not met by the June 15 deadline, the contestant will be disqualified.
 - 4) General Rule #1 now reads as follows:
*"Teachers must complete the online application no later than 11:59pm, June 1. **Materials must be uploaded individually in PDF format onto the registration website www.judgingcard.com at the time of registration.** Registration submission will not be complete unless all required materials have been uploaded. Required Materials Include:*
 1. Manuscript (including cover sheet)
 2. Abstract
 3. Complete references (previously called bibliography)
 4. Statement of originality
 5. SWCB consultation affidavit form (for Soil Stewardship only)
- Late registration/entries will incur a \$50 late fee from June 2-June 15 at midnight. If all requirements are not met by the June 15th deadline, the student will be disqualified. If needed, alternates will be notified as soon as possible."***
- 5) Prepared Public Speaking Jr. & Sr. rubrics have been separated to eliminate any confusion. They can be found immediately following the respective rules.
 - 6) SDE General Rules can be found [here](#)