Blackland District By-Laws

1. These By-Laws will commonly be referred to as the “Blackland District Policy”.
2. These By-Laws will be accessible by the chapters that are in good standing and serve as the guide for district process and proceedings enforced and followed by the Executive committee.
3. Student Leadership Officers will be referred to as “Blackland District Officers” and shall function as a team under the direction of the Student Activities Coordinator, who is the current Blackland District student President’s FFA Advisor. The Blackland District will elect two (2) student officer representatives for the Area VIII officer team.
4. Candidates for student office must be members in good standing of a chapter in good standing at the district, area, state, and national levels.
5. Candidates must currently hold the Chapter FFA Degree pursuant to the rules stated in the Texas FFA Constitution.
6. The eight (8) district officers elected shall be one (1) District President; one (1) District 1st Vice President; and six (6) Vice Presidents.
7. Officer candidates shall be elected by a point system derived from a combination of written exam score, communications component score, and popular vote from the student delegates in attendance at the election meeting. The exam may be taken on paper or in computer format and accounts for thirty (30) percent of the overall score and will be made up using the materials suggested from the Texas FFA Association for the current year. The test for district office will be fifty (50) questions and the test for area office will be one hundred (100) questions. The communications component is comprised of the application, writing prompt, and behavioral interview and accounts for thirty (30) percent of the overall score. The popular vote will occur after the candidate speech portion and will count for forty (40) percent of the overall score. The Teacher Executive Committee shall be charged with inputting scores and recording officer ranks to be announced at the District Convention. The Teacher Executive Committee will disclose the results to the officer’s FFA Advisors. If there is a conflict of interest with a member of the committee and an officer candidate, the committee member will step down and the committee will seek a qualified replacement FFA Advisor from the district.
8. Candidates seeking a position as a Blackland District officer will be given two (2) minutes to speak on stage to the delegates and asked one previously prepared thought question prior to voting. All candidates will be asked the same thought question. The delegates will cast votes for 2 (2) candidates of their choice. The candidate earning the highest point total after the final round of voting shall be declared student officer President for the district, the candidate receiving the second highest score total in the final election shall be named the 1st Vice President. The remaining officers shall be called Vice Presidents and shall assume the stations of the various other offices for ceremonial purposes at the annual convention and other meetings throughout the year in order according to final ranking.

1. After ranking, each candidate will have a score from 0-100. The top 40% of the candidates make the runoff. These students have 1 minute to make their speech followed by delegates getting ONE vote. The scores are figured the same as before and the top scorer is our Blackland District President.

Example: If there are 5 candidates, 40% will be 2 candidates in the runoff.

2. To elect the second candidate, the process to elect the first candidate should be repeated with ALL candidates coming back to compete for the second position (not just the runoff candidates). The 2-minute speeches are not repeated. The top 40 % are again brought back, with one minute given for a runoff speech. Delegates then get ONE vote with the top scorer being our 1st Vice President. The written exam score and communication scores are always used, and an elected position is not just from the popular vote.

1. Candidates seeking a position as the Blackland District representative for Area VIII Officer will be given three (3) minutes to speak on stage to the delegates and asked one previously prepared thought question prior to voting. All candidates will be asked the same thought question. The delegates will cast votes for 2 (2) candidates of their choice. The two (2) candidates earning the highest point totals after the final round of voting shall be declared student officers for the Blackland District as the Area VIII Officer representatives.

1. After ranking, each candidate will have a score from 0-100. The top 40% of the candidates make the runoff. These students have 1 minute to make their speech followed by delegates getting ONE vote. The scores are figured the same as before and the top scorer is our first area officer.

Example: If there are 5 candidates, 40% will be 2 candidates in the runoff.

2. To elect the second candidate, the process to elect the first candidate should be repeated with ALL candidates coming back to compete for the second position (not just the runoff candidates). The 3-minute speeches are not repeated. The top 40 % are again brought back, with one minute given for a runoff speech. Delegates then get ONE vote with the top scorer being our second area officer. The written exam score and communication score is always used, and an elected position is not just from the popular vote.

1. The Blackland District Teacher Executive Committee shall retain all officer election materials in a safe location for no less than sixty days following the conclusion of the district’s election meeting.
2. The Student Activities Coordinator will ensure that the voting ballots, pencils, and any other necessary materials are provided on the day of elections. The Teacher Executive Committee will secure tests, thought questions, and interviewers for the selection process. If a member of the Teacher Executive Committee has an officer candidate, they shall not have access to the test or thought question prior to the event and will abstain from viewing all materials or counting votes. The committee will replace that member with a qualified teacher from the committee or district as a representative.
3. Student officers representing the Blackland District shall serve from one student Convention through the next succeeding convention. A student that has served as a district President cannot seek election in subsequent years. A student that has served as an Area officer cannot seek election in subsequent years. A student can not seek election as a district and area officer in the same year. The same school may not have two officers serve on one team if there are more candidates that seek election from within the district to fill the positions.
4. Duties of the Blackland District student officers and discipline policies related to officers shall be outlined in the current District Officer contract that must be signed and submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to the election process, or at the date designated by the Teacher Executive Committee at the annual ATAT Conference.