

# Constitution and By-Laws

Blackland District (District 2)

Area VIII

Texas Association

National FFA Organization

(September 2017)

## ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND MISSION STATEMENT

Section A. – The name of this organization shall be the Blackland District (District 2) Association of the Area VIII Association of the Texas Association of the National FFA Organization. The letters FFA may be used to designate the Association, its activities, or members thereof.

Section B. – The Mission Statement for the National FFA Organization, the Texas FFA Association, The area VIII Association and the Blackland District is as follows:

*FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education.*

### TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION, FFA:

1. Develops competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
2. Increases awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
3. Strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
5. Encourages wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
6. Develops interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
7. Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
8. Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people
9. Promotes healthy lifestyles
10. Encourages excellence in scholarships.

## ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION

Section A. – The Blackland District Association will be a chartered District Unit of the Area VIII Association of the FFA, which is chartered by the Texas, and National FFA Organization.

Section B. – This association accepts in full, the provisions in the constitution and by-laws of the area VIII Association of FFA, as well as those of the Texas and National FFA Organization.

**ARITCLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

Section A. – Membership in the Association shall be of three kinds:

- (1) Active;
- (2) Alumni;
- (3) Honorary, as defined by the National FFA Organization’s constitution. Honorary members shall not vote nor shall they hold any office in the Association except that of advisor.

Section B. – There will be 14 officially chartered FFA chapters, in good standing that are members of the Blackland District FFA Association.

The list of these chapters are as follows:

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Avalon</b>         | <b>Maypearl</b>   |
| <b>Blooming Grove</b> | <b>Midlothian</b> |
| <b>Ennis</b>          | <b>Milford</b>    |
| <b>Ferris</b>         | <b>Palmer</b>     |
| <b>Frost</b>          | <b>Red Oak</b>    |
| <b>Heritage FFA</b>   | <b>Rice</b>       |
| <b>Italy</b>          | <b>Waxahachie</b> |

Section C. – Each local Chapter is entitled to send a delegate or delegates from its active membership to the district meetings. Chapters with an active membership in excess of 0 are entitled to send delegates to the district meetings as outlined in the formula below:

Chapters shall be allowed to have one delegate for every 50 active members.

**EXAMPLE:**

ACTIVE MEMBERS	DELGATE COUNT
1-50	1
51-100	2
101-150	3
151-200	4
201-250	5
251-300	6
301-350	7
351-400	8
401-450	9
451-500	10
501-550	11

**ARITCLE IV. EMBLEMS**

Section A. – the emblem of the FFA shall be the official emblem of the association.

Section B. – Emblems used by the member shall be uniform and those obtained from concerns officially designated by the National FFA Organization.

## ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES

Section A. – There shall be five degrees of active membership in the Blackland District Association:

- (1) Discovery FFA Degree;
- (2) Greenhand FFA Degree;
- (3) Chapter FFA Degree; and
- (4) State FFA Degree.
- (5) American FFA Degree

Section B. - The qualifications for the five degrees of active membership shall be in accordance with The Area, State and National FFA Organizations Constitution and By-laws.

## ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

Section A. A slate of eight (8) district officers shall be elected at the spring district degree and awards check meeting, prior to the area convention, by a plurality vote of the official district delegates present.

Section B. - The District officers elected shall be:

ONE PRESIDENT  
ONE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
SIX VICE PRESIDENTS.

Section C. – The president and first vice president, elected each year, will perform all duties of the President and the vice president, as listed in the Official FFA Manual. The 6 district vice presidents, elected each year, will divide the other duties of the district officer team among themselves each year after the election.

Section D. - Each chapter, in that is in good standing with the Blackland District, will be allowed to send one district officer candidate each year.

If not enough candidates are present for the election of the full complement of eight (8) officers in any given year, then the member schools that did bring an official candidate will be allowed to run two candidates during the same year. If there are 2 candidates from the same chapter during the same year and one of these candidates are elected to the office of president then the other candidate may not hold the office of First vice president, but may serve as one of the 6 other district officers.

To be eligible for election, all candidates' must submit their name to the current year's teacher district president, at least one week before the election. **If a candidate's name is not submitted on time, they will not be allowed to participate in the election.**

Section E. – In the event that a District officer fails to perform their prescribed duties, that officer can be removed from office by a majority vote of that current years district officer team, **or by a majority vote of the district teacher officers**. In the event that an officer is removed from office, the rest of the officer team will absorb the duties of that officer for the remainder of the year. In the event that a district officer resigns their office of their own accord, that officer's position will be filled by the next district officer candidate that was in line, according to the votes at that years elections. If there were no other candidates that ran during that year's officer election, then each chapter that does not have a current District officer will be allowed to submit an officer candidate. The nominees will be voted on by the Blackland District Executive Committee. The candidate receiving a majority vote, will be elected, to fill out the remaining term of that years District Officer Team.

Section F. – All FFA members that submit their name for consideration of being elected an Officer of the Blackland District should be willing to commit themselves to participating and attending ALL OFFICIAL BLACKLAND DISTRICT FUNCTIONS. Officers are expected to attend all officially called Blackland District Functions. District Officers are expected to attend the District Officer Leadership Conference that is held in the summer (Trinidad) each year. Officers missing two or more district functions, without permission of the District President and District Advisor, will be removed from office, after due process has been served. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER SCHOOL RELATED FUNCTIONS AND ILLNESS (Documented by the officer's advisor) WILL CONSTITUTE A LIGITAMENT EXCUSE FOR MISSING ANY DISTRICT FUNCTION.

Section G. –To be eligible for election as a Blackland District officer, Officer Candidates may hold the degree of greenhand when elected, but must earn the chapter FFA Degree before the end of the calendar year in which they were elected.

Section H. – A member, who has been an Area officer or District President, cannot be elected as a Blackland District Officer. Any district officer may serve only two terms in office.

Section I. – A district officer may not hold a district and an area office concurrently.

Section J. – Due process will be:

1. Presenting any infraction of the District Officer Rules to a majority of the current year's district officer team.
2. Notifying the offending officer the intent for removal.
3. Allowing the offending officer the right to defend his removal.
4. Having a Majority of the Current District Officer Team to vote for the offending officer removal.

## ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS AND OFFICIAL FFA DISTRICT FUNCTIONS

Section A. – Regular Blackland District Meetings shall be determined by the Executive Committee as to time and place.

Section B. – Official FFA functions shall include, but shall not be inclusive of the following:

1. Fall Meeting (Sept.)
2. District FFA Leadership Contest
3. Winter Meeting (Jan.)
4. Blackland District Convention
5. District Awards Banquet
6. Area VIII Convention
7. Area VIII District Officer Leadership Training camp
8. Any other function that received a majority vote of the District Officers to attend

## ARTICLE VIII. DUES

Section A. – the district dues shall be fifty cents per district member annually.

Section B. Members must pay all officially administered local district area state and national dues in order to be eligible to participate in any Blackland District Activities and to be eligible to apply for, and to be eligible to win any District FFA Aware

## ARTICLE IX. AWARDS DEGREES SCHOLARSHIPS AND CONTESTS

Section A. A chapter that is in good standing, shall be able to participate, in any Officially Sanctioned FFA Activities that are held in any given year

Section B. At a meeting or meetings preceding the Area VIII convention in May of each year, the Blackland District will elect or select the following to represent the District at the Area VIII Convention:

1. Elect two (2) Area Officer Candidates,
2. Elect eight (8) Blackland District Officers,
3. Elect one (1) talent team to compete at the Area Convention,
4. Select two (2) Prepared Public Speaker Candidate, Two (2) Extemporaneous Speaker Candidate and Two (2) Soil Stewardship Speaking Winner.
5. Select one (1) Applicant each, to represent the district at the Area Convention for the Area Star Awards, as listed in the Awards section of the Official FFA Manual.
6. Conduct a mock interview with all FFA Scholarship Candidates.
7. Select all other FFA award winners that may be designated by the State Association.

(The district will be allowed, in accordance with Area VIII rules, to send to the Area Convention, as many qualified candidates that wishes to participate in the State Officer Elections on the Area level. **These candidates must submit their intent to run for the Area VIII State Officer Nomination at the district convention.**)

## **ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS TO BY- LAWS OR CONSTITUTION.**

Proposed amendments to the District Constitution or By-laws must be submitted in writing to the Area Teacher Coordinator at least sixty (60) days prior to any district meeting. These proposed changes must also, in turn, be subjected to the following criteria:

1. Submit, in writing, to the local chapters of the Blackland District Officer, a copy of the proposed changes at least thirty (30) days prior to the next succeeding district meeting.
2. Must be reviewed by the duly elected Blackland District Officer (teacher and student officer) Team.
3. Must submit to the delegates and teachers, at an official business session, of the Blackland District a copy of the proposed changes for their debate and voting.
4. Amendments and Revisions to the Blackland District only can be made by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the official delegates and teachers present.

## **ARTICLE X. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section A. The current elected District FFA Officers, along with their teacher advisors, shall constitute the Blackland District Executive Committee, The Executive Committee shall have full power to act as necessary to make decisions effecting the operation of the Blackland District FFA Association in accordance with actions taken at the District Associations meetings and various regulations or By Laws adopted from time to time. The student officers shall have voting privileges. The teacher of the current Blackland District FFA President shall have the duties of coordinating all District FFA Functions with the Blackland District FFA Officer Team. The Advisor of the Blackland District FFA President shall serve as Over-All Chairman of the Blackland Executive Committee. The officer's teacher advisor will serve in a non-voting, advisory capacity.

Section B. Any business that deals with the expenditure of any Blackland District FFA funds must be approved by a majority voting delegates in attendance at any official Blackland District FFA Meeting.

Section C. The Executive Committee may vote to spend any district funds, as the committee see fit, at any time during the school year. The expenditure of District Funds also can be made by a majority of official voting members of the Executive Committee in attendance at any committee meeting or by a majority vote of the Teacher Officers. As to votes dealing with District fund expenditures, the teacher advisors will be able to cast their vote.

Section D – A 2/3's vote of the district advisors has precedence over any votes taken by any other group or committee.

## Blackland District Officer Team Application

To be considered for election to the Blackland District Officer Team, the following application must be filled out with the appropriate signatures and submitted to the District President (teacher) before the deadline date. This date will be set each year at the January District Meeting.

All elected Blackland District Officers are expected to attend ALL official Blackland District Functions (see Article VIII; Sec B). Officers missing two or more district functions without permission of the District President (student) and District Advisor will be removed from office, after due process has been served (see district constitution) Participation in other school related functions or illness would constitute a legitimate excuse for missing any district function. A note of verification from the officer's advisor will be sufficient evidence.

To be eligible for election as a Blackland District Officer, officer candidates may hold the Greenhand FFA Degree at the time of election, but must earn the Chapter FFA Degree before the end of the calendar year in which they were elected.

A member, who has been an area officer or district president, cannot be elected as a Blackland District Officer.

A member may serve only two terms as a District Officer

A District Officer may not hold a district and an Area Office concurrently

Official District Functions shall include, but shall not be inclusive of the following:

1. Fall District Meeting
2. District FFA Leadership Contest
3. Winter Meeting
4. Blackland District Convention
5. District Awards Banquet
6. Area VIII Convention
7. Area VIII District Officer Leadership Training Camp
8. Other FFA Functions that receive a majority vote of the District Officer Team to attend.

I \_\_\_\_\_, a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ FFA Chapter, hereby submit this application and serve official notice that I intend to run for an office on this year's Blackland District Officer Team. I have read and I agree to abide by the above rules that have been set for the members of the Blackland FFA District Officer Team

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
student's advisor signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's signature