

Constitution and By-Laws of the McGee Bend District FFA Association

These by-laws (referred to as the “by-laws”) govern the affairs of the McGee Bend District Association (referred to as the “Association”), a recognized District Administrative Subdivision of the Area IX Association and the Texas FFA Association, organized under the provisions the Texas FFA Constitution, by-laws and policies adopted by the Texas FFA Board of Directors.

Constitution

Article I: Name and Purpose

- A. The name of this organization shall be the “McGee Bend District FFA Association.” Members are hereinafter referred to as “FFA Members.”
- B. FFA Missions:
 - a. To develop competent and assertive agricultural leadership
 - b. Increase awareness of the importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being
 - c. Strengthen the agriculture students’ confidence in themselves and their work
 - d. Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an Ag career
 - e. Encourages achievement in SAE’s
 - f. Encourages wise management of economic, environmental, and human resources of the community
 - g. Develops interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations, and social interactions
 - h. Builds character, and promotes citizenship, volunteerism, and patriotism
 - i. Promotes cooperation among all people
 - j. Promotes healthy lifestyles
 - k. Encourages excellence in scholarship

Article II: Organization

- A. The McGee Bend District is an administrative subdivision of the Texas FFA Association.
- B. This Association accepts in full the provisions of the constitution and by-laws of the Area IX FFA Association as well as those of the Texas and National Associations.

Article III: Membership

- A. Membership in this Association shall be of three kinds; (1) Active, (2) Alumni, and (3) Honorary, as defined by the National FFA Constitution.
- B. Each local chapter is entitled to send at least one delegate from its active membership to the district meetings. Chapters with an active membership in excess of 50 are entitled to send delegates to the district meetings as outlined in the formula below: Active Membership Delegates

1	1 – 50
2	51 – 100
3	101 – 150
4	151 – 200
5	201 – 250
6	251 – 300

- C. Honorary membership shall be limited only to those who have received Honorary Degrees in their local chapters.
- D. All chapters in good standing are members of the McGee Bend District Association.

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Article IV: Emblems

- A. The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem of the Association
- B. Emblems used by the members shall be uniform and those obtained from concerns officially designated by the National Organization of the FFA.

Article V: District Officers

- A. Each local chapter that is in good standing is allowed to send one District Officer Candidate to the District Officer Elections.
- B. The officers of the McGee Bend District shall be as follows; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, Second Vice President, and their respective Advisor/s. The Advisor/s shall be the local chapter advisor/s of the District President.
- C. The President and other District Officers shall be elected at the designated District meeting by a majority vote of the voting delegates provided a quorum is present.
- D. The officers of the District Association shall constitute the District Executive Committee. This Executive Committee shall have full power to act as necessary for the District Association in accordance with actions taken at District meetings and various regulations or by-laws adopted from time-to-time.
- E. All District, Area, and State FFA Officer elections shall follow state officer guidelines.
- F. Honorary Members shall not vote nor shall they hold any office in the Association except that of Advisor.
- G. District Officers must hold the Chapter Farmer FFA Degree and be either a sophomore or junior in high school at the time of election.
- H. A member who has previously been a District or Area Officer cannot run for District Office.

Article VI: Meetings

- A. Regular District Association meetings shall be determined by the District Officers, District Advisor/s, Association Executive Committee, and Area Coordinator as to time and place.
- B. District Officer meetings will be held on a monthly basis during the school year as determined by those officers and their respective Advisor/s. Summer meetings may be scheduled by the District Advisor/s, and the District President.
- C. All District Officers will be required to attend all District Officer meetings and the Area Leadership Camp. One missed meeting per officer will be excused if prior written notice is given at least one week in advance. Emergencies and unavoidable circumstances, such as illness, will be taken into consideration for excusal by the District Advisor/s, District President, and the Association Executive Committee. Any officer that fails to attend three scheduled meetings will be considered for dismissal by the District Advisor/s, District President, and the Association Executive Committee.

Article VII: Dues

- A. District Association dues shall be determined annually by delegates of the district.
- B. No chapter shall be considered as active or in good standing unless they pay full District, Area, State, and National FFA dues.

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Article IX: Leadership

- A. One team from each local chapter is eligible to compete in each event or contest in the Leadership Development Event, provided that chapter is in good standing with the District.
- B. Career Development Event Speaking contest will be held annually at the designated District meeting preceding the Area Convention. National rules will be followed.
- C. Candidates for Area and State Officers shall be elected at the designated District meeting preceding the Area Convention.

Article X: Amendments

- A. Proposed amendments to the District Constitution or by-laws must be submitted in writing to the Association Executive Committee President at least 60 days prior to any District Association meeting. These proposed changes must then in turn be submitted to the local chapters of the District at least 30 days prior to the next meeting, and submitted by the District Officers to the delegates in a District meeting.
- B. Amendments may be adopted, or revisions made in the District Constitution at any District Association meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the official delegates provided that a quorum is present.

By-Laws

Article I

Two winners from each district for Area Officer, Public Speaking Contest, and Talent Contest may be elected to represent the District at the Area Convention.

Article II

District Candidates for Talent Activity at the District meeting will follow State rules.

District Candidates for Public Speaking Contests will follow the State and National rules.

Article III: 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.

Section B: The elected student officers of the district shall be elected annually from a field of candidates nominated from member chapters in good standing. In compliance to policies and procedures of the district, each of these student officer candidates shall be given the opportunity to demonstrate FFA, agricultural education, parliamentary procedure and agricultural industry knowledge via a written or online exam, present their qualifications to an evaluation committee and appear before the delegates convened at the annual convention to deliver a campaign speech.

Section C: Candidates for student office must be a member in good standing, hold the chapter degree at the time of election by the district, have completed no less than two semesters of agriculture food and natural resources instruction as described by Texas FFA Association membership eligibility policies, have been an active member for the preceding 12 months and have completed all required forms by timelines.

Section D: Officers shall be elected by a point system derived from a combination of written exam score, interview score and student delegate vote in proportions.

Section E: The district's teachers and student delegates shall adopt policies and procedures addressing point values, campaign practices and speeches, committee composition, interview and testing procedures and other such matters related to the conduct of student officer elections.

Section F: The district's elections committee shall consist of the outgoing student officers, with the district's executive committee acting as an advisory committee. The chairman of the elections committee shall be an agriculture, food and natural resources teacher elected by the district's teachers or executive committee or designated by policy. The elections committee and executive committee shall work in conjunction to resolve election-related matters not addressed by these bylaws or by the district's policies and procedures. Student or teacher officers with a conflict of interest may recuse themselves from deliberations or be disqualified by a two-thirds vote of the combined committee. Questions, concerns or appeals concerning the election shall be addressed to the district's executive committee, pursuant to procedures and timelines. All documents related to an officer election process shall be retained in a secure location for no less than 30 days following the conclusion of the district's election.

Section G: The candidate earning the highest point total after the final round of voting shall be declared student officer president of the district, and the candidate receiving the second highest score total in the final runoff election shall be declared the first 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.

Section H: If for any reason a student office becomes vacant, the executive committee may fill the office with a qualified member to fulfill the unexpired term of office. If for any reason the office of president should become vacant, the student officer who received the next highest score in the election for president shall become president. An officer who transfers to another chapter within the district may retain his or her office, but should an officer transfer to a chapter outside of the district or no longer be in good standing with a chapter within the district, his or her office shall be declared vacated.

Section I: Student officers shall serve from one student convention through the next succeeding convention and shall not be re-elected, or be eligible for reelection to another student office.

Section J: 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 IV: Teacher Meetings

Section A: An assembly of district teachers shall be convened annually at the state agriculture, food and natural resources teacher 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.

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 V: 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 an Advisor 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 proceedings 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 VI: 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 from the proceedings of the executive committee in matters which involves 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 two-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.

Article VII: Policy

Policy is to be managed by a committee consisting of 7 agriculture science teachers consisting of the 3 elected positions (President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and 4 appointed teachers serving at large.

- 1) Management of Policy
 - a) Policy questions or changes may be heard by the committee at any time during a special meeting
 - b) Policy changes must be communicated to all chapters with a 14 day comment period.
 - c) Upon the completion of the comment period, the committee will reconvene to discuss public comment and determine if a policy change will occur.

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