

SECTION 24
Area XII Speaking Development Events (SDE) Policies
Adopted 9-22-18

Section 24.1 Speaking Development Event Advisory Committee

- (a) Representatives from each administrative district shall comprise the area speaking development event advisory committee to make recommendations to the teacher membership concerning speaking development events. Subcommittees and task forces comprised of committee members or other qualified individuals may be appointed by the advisory committee or executive committee to study event or instructionally related issues.
- (b) With the advice and consent of the Area XII Executive Committee, the Area Teacher President shall appoint a speaking development event superintendent who shall chair the committee and coordinate contest operations. The Area Coordinator shall oversee the operations of the superintendent(s) under the oversight and governance of the executive committee and in accordance to adopted policies.
- (c) The SDE Advisory Committee shall convene annually at the agricultural science teachers' professional development conference to examine concerns and recommendations from teachers and event providers and to make formal recommendations to the Area XII teacher delegation. The committee is encouraged to meet prior to the teachers' conference to set priorities and agenda items for the annual meeting.
- (d) A recording secretary shall be appointed by the chair for each meeting of the SDE Advisory Committee. Minutes of each meeting shall be compiled by the recording secretary and provided to all committee members and executive committee members within 30 days.
- (e) In reviewing event rules and considering recommendations from teachers and the Executive Committee, the SDE Advisory Committee shall take into consideration (1) instructional objectives for the target students, (2) professional standards related to the event, (3) skill development, (4) career and life skill applications (5) national event compliance and (6) event delivery logistics at district, area and state levels.
- (f) In reviewing general rules, the SDE Advisory Committee and the Area XII Executive Committee shall take in consideration (1) support for instructional programs, (2) fairness

and due process and (3) the fundamental core values of the Texas FFA Association and National FFA Organization.

(g) All events shall be reviewed by the Area XII SDE Advisory Committee and event providers at the end of each yearly cycle.

(h) National qualifying events termed as “speaking development events” in Texas are “career development events” at the national level and shall be subject to five-year cycles established by The National FFA Organization.

Section 24.2 Area Event Entry Fees

(a) The Executive Committee delegates to the event advisory committee authority to secure an appropriate service provider for electronic event registration, contest tabulation and results posting and to set fees to cover event expenses. Events should be operated on a break-even basis. Entry fees shall be set by the Area XII teacher delegation annually at the VATAT Conference.

Section 24.3 Awards and Advancement of Entries

(a) Two participants shall advance from district level competition for each event, including: Jr. Prepared Speaking, Sr. Prepared Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking and Soil Stewardship Speaking.

(b) Awards will be presented for placings first through fifth in each SDE. Plaques will be awarded to those individuals who will advance to state-level competition. Banners will be presented to the remaining placings through fifth place. Results will be announced at the Area XII Convention and awards will be presented at that time.

Section 24.4 Judges, Evaluation and Ranking of Entries

(a) Each area event must have a minimum of three judges. At least two judges for each event shall be current or retired agricultural science teachers. Judges representing agricultural business and industry may be used if they are deemed qualified by the area event superintendent.

(b) No judge may have a vested interest in the outcome of the event he or she is judging. Judges may not judge in events in which a team from their school is competing or in which a preexisting relationship has the potential to influence decisions concerning

the evaluation and ranking of the entries. The general superintendent shall make the final decision concerning conflicts of interest.

(c) Each administrative district shall supply a minimum of six (6) qualified judges to evaluate and place entries in accordance to state rules for the respective event. The superintendent shall establish an area rotation of event judges. District event coordinators shall be responsible for the submission of judges' names and requested contact information pursuant to the timeline set by the superintendent or Area Coordinator.

(d) Administrative districts which do not submit judges shall not certify contestants for the events in which they have not submitted judges.

(e) Teachers who are qualified to judge area events should be those who have been active participants of the event to be judged and have proven mastery of the event. All judges are required to attend the judges meeting, which will be held prior to the event, unless they are excused from that meeting by the area event superintendent.

(f) A lead judge for each event will be designated by the event superintendent for the purpose of results tabulation. Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant then shall be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placings will be determined in the same manner (low point score method of selection). Judges will be expected to evaluate and score the participants independently of each other without judging collaboration.

(g) Judges shall sign all critique sheets and submit them with event results. Critique sheets shall be returned to respective schools via mail or by hand following the event.

Section 24.5 Conflict Resolution

(a) Appeals concerning district and area standings for recognition and awards shall be resolved by officials at the corresponding levels of competition.

(b) The state SDE process is a tournament concept that begins at the district level and culminates at the state event. Unresolved district-level disputes concerning qualification for area competition may be appealed to the respective area executive committee only after the district committee has heard and ruled on the matter in question. Teachers may request a state level review of any such ruling. The state executive committee shall overturn only those decisions that are ruled to be arbitrary or in conflict with state policy.

(c) Appeals of area-level decisions concerning state qualification or state event decisions must be filed in writing with the Texas FFA Association executive director no later than 5:00 p.m. on the working day following the decision under appeal. All appeals shall be considered by the executive board.

(d) Persons whose judgment may be influenced by a vested interest or a pre-existing relationship that may impair their ability to be fair and impartial must recuse themselves from all deliberations concerning appeals.

(e) Subjective qualitative judgments inherent in evaluating event performances may not be Appealed.