

**SECTION 22**  
**Area XII Leadership Development Event Policies**  
**Adopted 9-22-18**  
**Amended 8-2-19**

***Section 22.1 Leadership Development Advisory Committee***

- (a) Representatives from each administrative district shall comprise the Area XII LDE advisory committee to make recommendations to the Area XII Executive Committee concerning fall LDE's. Subcommittees and task forces comprised of committee members or other qualified individuals may be appointed by the Area XII Executive Committee to study event or instructionally related issues.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall appoint a Leadership Development Event Superintendent who shall chair the LDE Committee. The Executive Committee shall oversee the operations of the superintendent under the oversight and governance of the Executive Committee and in accordance to Area XII adopted policies.
- (c) The LDE Advisory Committee and specific event subcommittees shall convene annually at the agricultural science teachers' professional improvement 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) The LDE Advisory Committee may meet via conference call or by other means within 30 days following the completion of the area event to review the conduct of the area event and materials produced by the primary event provider and supply constructive input regarding issues such as relevance and appropriateness of the materials to the respective levels, effectiveness of the event site, judging and/or any other issues that occurred.
- (e) A recording secretary shall be appointed by the chair for each meeting of the LDE 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 of each meeting.
- (f) In reviewing event rules and considering recommendations from teachers, event providers, the LDE Advisory Committee and the Area XII Executive 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) state event compliance and (6) event delivery logistics at the district and area levels.

(g) In reviewing general rules, the LDE 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.

### ***Section 22.2 Area XII Event Entry Fees***

(a) The Area XII Executive Committee will recommend an appropriate service provider for electronic event registration, contest tabulation and results posting.

(b) The LDE Advisory Committee will recommend entry fees to cover event expenses.

(c) The Area XII Executive Committee will propose the entry fee amount to the Area XII teacher delegation for consideration and action at the annual VATAT Conference.

(d) Events should be operated on a break-even basis. Entry fees are not to be used to raise profit for any other organization or entity. If a profit is earned, the funds should roll back into the operation budget. Entry fees will be \$25.

### ***Section 22.3 Judges, Evaluation and Ranking of Entries***

(a) Each area event must have a minimum of three judges. Of those, at least two judges for each event shall be current or retired Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources teachers, except in the case of the Agricultural Issues Forum Contest. Judges representing agricultural business, industry, and other related teaching fields may be used if they are deemed qualified by the area event superintendent. For the Agricultural Issues Forum Contest, additional judges are used to provide a balance of teachers and industry professionals.

(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 Area XII LDE Superintendent shall make the final decision concerning conflicts of interest.

(c) For fall events, each administrative district shall supply qualified judges to evaluate

and place entries in accordance to state rules for the respective event. The LDE Advisory Committee shall establish an area rotation of competition. District coordinators shall be responsible for the submission of judges' names and requested contact information no later than one week prior to the area event unless the district event schedule precludes compliance to this timeline. All judges' contact information must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the area event.

(d) The Area XII FFA Association will provide stipends to judges as some school districts may be unwilling to financially support travel expenses for agricultural science teachers who are traveling to fall LDE's for the sole purpose of judging. Judging stipends will be set annually by the Area XII teacher delegation at the annual VATAT Conference. Judges will be made aware of the availability of stipends and will have the prerogative to accept or decline the stipend.

(e) Teachers 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 to attend the judges' meeting prior to the event, unless they are excused from that meeting by the area event superintendent. Without exception, chapter conducting judges must be in attendance at the judges' meeting. **All judges must arrive at the contest site at least one hour prior to start time.**

(f) Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. A lead judge will be designated by the event superintendent for the purpose of tabulating the rankings. The judges' rankings 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).

(g) Judges shall sign all critique sheets and submit them with the event results to the Area Coordinator. Critique sheets shall be returned to respective schools at the conclusion of the event or via mail following the event.

#### ***Section 22.4 Advancement and Awards of Entries***

(a) Districts shall designate those teams selected to advance to the Area XII LDE. A maximum of two teams per event shall advance to the area level. In the event that a qualifying team is deemed ineligible or must withdraw prior to the area event and is to be replaced, the sending district must notify the event superintendent within 24 hours of that change.

(b) Rectangle felt banners will be awarded to the top two teams in each event.

(c) Pennant felt banners will be awarded to the third through fifth place winners at the area level.

#### ***Section 22.5: Sweepstakes Awards***

(a) The overall sweepstakes winner and runner-up shall be the chapters that earned the most points: first place: 10 points; second place: 9 points; third place: 8 points; fourth place: 7 points, etc. Entries placing below tenth place shall not receive sweepstakes points. In the event there is a tie for first place, co-winners and a runner-up shall be awarded. The top 3 teams will receive award banners.

#### ***Section 22.6 Dishonesty and Violations During the Event***

(a) Chapters found to be in violation of LDE rules in an attempt to gain a competitive advantage (not a dress code violation etc.) will not be allowed to compete in LDE contests for a period of one contest year. The team and/or individual will be immediately disqualified and all awards revoked.

(b) If any cause for disqualification is considered a willful act of defiance and the act has the approval of the teacher, the school the student represents will be barred from participation in area events until reinstated by the area executive board. Any advisor found guilty of willfully entering ineligible members in any FFA event will have the school where he/she serves barred from participation until reinstated by the Area XII Executive Board.