

**Maryland FFA Association, Inc.**  
**GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

*Approved by the MD FFA Board of Directors January 25, 2005*  
*Amendments approved March 14, 2007, March 11, 2015, October 7, 2015*

**A. State Career Development Event Guidelines**

1. Chapter and Student Eligibility

- a- A chapter must be in good standing with the Maryland FFA Association in order to participate in State Career Development Events, activities, and award programs. Chapters can maintain a good standing with the Maryland FFA Association by submitting the following to the State FFA Executive Director by November 30<sup>th</sup> of the current school year:
  - i A written chapter program of activities and a budget.
  - ii The membership Roster of first semester enrollees must be submitted online to the National FFA and full payment to the “Maryland FFA Association” by November 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year, and second semester enrollees by February 1<sup>st</sup>. All dues for state and national must be paid in full to qualify to participate in any State FFA CDE.
  - iii Chapters participating in the affiliate membership program must verify their affiliate status by October 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year, and submit their roster and full payment by November 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year.
- b- A student is eligible to participate in Maryland FFA activities if:
  - i He/she is a member of a chapter in good standing with the MD FFA Association and, he/she is listed on the roster submitted by the same chapter.
- c- A student’s individual score that has counted towards a winning team score, qualifying that team for national competition during the current year may only participate in other CDE’s as an individual. A student who has qualified at the regional level for an individual Speaking CDE will be eligible to compete in that event on the state level, and is eligible to compete as a member of a team as long as the events are not held concurrently.
- d- A student is ineligible to participate in a Maryland CDE if:
  - i He/she was previously a member of the first place winning team (does not apply to the alternate) in the same Maryland State CDE, or;
  - ii He/she participated in the same National CDE.

2. Team Composition and Scoring

- a- Nationally Certified Career Development Events
  - i The Maryland FFA Association will follow the team composition and scoring guidelines set by the National FFA Organization as published in the current edition of the National FFA Career Development Events Handbook
  - ii Chapters must enter a full team for any event where the team score is calculated using scores from all eligible team members or as a team.
  - iii For any event where not all scores are used to calculate the total team score, the individual scores not used in team calculation will still be used in the individual rankings. Additionally, for the winning team, the student whose score is not used is still considered a member of the winning team for the purposes of certifying for the national event and their limited eligibility to participate in the state event in subsequent years.
- b- Non-nationally Certified Events
  - i Chapters may enter a team of three or four (3-4) and only the top three individual scores (plus a team portion score where applicable) will be used to calculate the total team score: Land Judging; FFA Knowledge Test; Horticulture Judging.

- ii Chapters may enter a team of three or four (3-4) in the following events and the event will be scored by team performance with no individual scores being calculated: Agricultural Knowledge Bowl; Horticulture & Knowledge Bowl.
- 3. Limitations on chapter and member participation in State CDE's
  - a- Each FFA Region may have the following number of participants. Individuals may represent the same chapter unless restricted by regional rules.
    - i four tractor operator contestants
    - ii three agricultural mechanics teams, no extra individuals
    - iii an unlimited number of parliamentary procedure teams consisting of six members.
    - iv four junior and four senior prepared public speakers
    - v four creed speakers
    - vii four junior and four senior extemporaneous speakers
  - b- Each chapter may have one team and up to six individuals/team event, where applicable
  - c- Chapters are limited to one representative for the State Job Interview CDE
  - d- A member may only participate in one CDE held during the state spring judging
  - e- A member may only participate in one individually qualified CDE during the state convention
  - f- A member may participate in only one CDE scheduled during the same time period during the state convention. However, a member may participate in one team event held concurrently with one of the following individual contests should they be named a top four finalist. (Jr. and Sr. Prepared Public Speaking, Creed Speaking, Jr. and Sr. Extemp. Public Speaking)
- 4. FFA Official Dress
  - a- Students are required to be in FFA Official Dress when participating in contests as set by the first precedence of the Maryland FFA CDE Rules, and if not different, than as outlined in the National Career Development Events Handbook.
  - b- For events where official dress is identified as appropriate by the National FFA Organization and is not included as a component of the scorecard, an addition of up to 40 points will be added to the total team score, with up to 10 points per member.
    - i 2 pts- FFA Jacket- It is not required that the jacket belongs to the student, or has the same chapter name. Deductions may be taken if the jacket is worn inappropriately including but not limited to being unzipped or with superfluous pins or insignia.
    - ii 2 pts- White collared shirt, deductions for unbuttoned and untucked
    - iii 2 pts- Black slacks for males, black skirts for females, with deductions height above the knee.
    - iv 2 pts- Black closed in toe and heel dress shoes and, black socks or nylon hosiery
    - v 2 pts- Black or Dark Blue tie or scarf
  - c- Students should wear appropriate attire for Ag Mechanics, Safe Tractor Operations, Land Judging, Forestry, and Environment/ Natural Resources and show whites for the Dairy Handlers event. For all other events not covered by the National FFA Career Development Events Handbook, students should be in FFA Official Dress and the above deduction will apply.
- 5. State CDE's shall be scheduled as follows:

**Spring Judging CDE's**

Agronomy, Ag Mechanics, Farm Business Management, Food Science, Horticulture, Meat Evaluation, Milk Quality, Nursery/Landscape

### **State Convention CDE's**

Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Issues, Ag Knowledge Bowl, Agricultural Sales, Creed Speaking, Environmental & Nat. Resources, Extemporaneous Public Speaking (Jr/Sr), FFA Knowledge, Floriculture, Forestry, Horticulture Bowl, Job Interview, Marketing Plan, Parliamentary Procedure, Prepared Public Speaking (Jr/Sr), Talent, Veterinary Science.

### **Single Day CDE's**

Agriscience Fair, Dairy Handling, Dairy Evaluation, Horse Judging, Land Judging, Livestock Judging, Poultry Judging, Tractor Operators.

6. All CDE's have a \$10.00 registration fee/individual, with a \$35 registration fee/team.
7. The method of breaking ties will be determined by the CDE committee prior to the start of the event.
8. Any communication between contestants and/or any assistance given to a team member from any source except CDE officials during a contest will be sufficient cause to disqualify the individual and team.
9. Cell phones will not be allowed in any Maryland FFA Career Development Event. Retention or use of a cell phone during a CDE will be sufficient cause to disqualify the individual and team.
10. Only non-programmable calculators are allowed to be used in a MD FFA CDE.
11. Clipboards must also be clean and free of any notes. Bookbags, purses, and other large personal items must be checked at the entrance of the CDE event, and may be picked up upon completion of the event.
12. The following must be postmarked and mailed by May 15<sup>th</sup> and submitted to the State FFA Executive Director for each of the events listed below:
  - a- Job Interview submission online
  - b- Prepared speaking (Jr/Sr)- speech (five copies) including the originality statement
  - c- Marketing Plan- written proposal (five copies)
  - d- Agricultural Issues- written portfolio (five copies)
  - f- Agricultural Communications- written proposal (five copies)
  - e- **Exception:** AgriScience Fair-application and abstract (five copies) – April 15<sup>th</sup>

**Note: Failure to submit the items in a timely manner will result in loss of points and possible disqualification from the event.**

13. Specific rules, procedures, and conditions of each CDE will be reviewed by the chairperson or superintendent before each CDE begins. Scoring materials will be provided for each CDE.
14. When only one team or individual registers by the postmark deadline, that team or individual shall be declared the winner with full rights to awards and recognition.
15. A standing committee of the MD FFA Board of Directors shall determine final policy on all CDE rules and resolve conflicts. Please see individual State CDE rules for specifics of each event.

16. The Maryland FFA Association, Inc. provides awards for Maryland State FFA CDE's described in this document through the support of the Maryland FFA Foundation and the Maryland Agricultural Fair Board. CDE Award plaques and medals (1 gold, 2 silver, and 3 bronze, respectively)  
Special awards may be given in certain CDE's with the approval of the State FFA Executive Director.
  - a- **Individual events:** receive 1<sup>st</sup> place, Gold medal, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Silver medal, 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> place individual bronze medals.
  - b- **Team events with individual activities:** award medals will be presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> place, Gold medal, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Silver medal, 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> place individual bronze medals, and team member plaques to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams.
  - c- **Team events with no individual activities** receive 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place member plaques.

## **B. Out-of-State CDE's**

1. Chapter advisors must check with team members to verify that they will participate in out-of-state CDE's and must confirm their intentions by set deadline with the State FFA Executive Director.
2. Teams representing Maryland in interstate and national CDE's shall be comprised of members from one (1) chapter, and must contain two members of the original team. If an extra team member is needed he/she should come from one of the alternates that the chapter had in the CDE and if none of them can go, then the chapter can pick from its' roster. If a chapter does not have at least two of the original team members, then the opportunity goes to the next team in line.
3. If a team/individual qualifier becomes ineligible, or is unable to participate in an out-of-state CDE, then the next highest ranked team/individual may have the choice of moving up. Each team/individual placing below the one vacant will also have the choice of participation.
4. The State FFA Executive Director is not obligated to name a substitute team for an out-of-state CDE if a team or individual is declared ineligible or unable to participate within thirty days of the CDE and the chapter will incur all expenses for participating. Exception: For all events with state qualifying competitions after July 1, the chapter must notify the State FFA Executive Director of their intention not to attend within five days after the certifying event to prevent being held financially obligated to the trip.

## **C. Policy regarding member participation in FFA activities where they are enrolled in more than one school.**

1. Issue #1 - Many students retain FFA membership who are not enrolled in systematic agriculture/horticulture classes in a given school.  
Operating Policy:
  - a- FFA membership may be continued for one year while enrolled in high school in the chapter where membership was originally held providing:
    - i Student was enrolled in the program previously;
    - ii Student has an agricultural occupational objective;
    - iii Student maintains a supervised occupational experience program with records;
    - iv Student remains in good standing as an FFA member;
    - v Student is in a systematic agriculture program that prepares him/her for their respective agricultural occupational objective as outlined by the student and presented in writing to the chapter advisor by November 30 of the current school year.

- b- The above may be extended for a second year providing the student presents their FFA plans and that they are reviewed and approved by a committee of three. The committee may consist of the regional coordinator and two agricultural teachers. This committee has the power to determine whether the student should continue in the FFA.

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- 5. Issue #2 - A student is enrolled in agricultural courses in both the home school and ~~the~~ a career and technical center

Operating Policy:

- a- A student will pay dues to only one designated chapter but may participate in activities of both chapters. The student's name will appear on only the one designated membership roster to which they paid their annual dues.
- b- Once a student competes in a given official FFA CDE, then that student cannot cross over to the team in the same CDE of another chapter of which he/she is a member and compete nationally with the other school.
- c- A student can represent only one chapter in any official FFA state or national activity.

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- 6. Issue #3 – Award and Degree Applications- What chapter name and which advisor should sign a member's proficiency award, State FFA Degree and American FFA Degree application?

Operating Policy:

- a- The FFA Advisor of the chapter where the member is currently enrolled, shall be the advisor to sign all the degree and award applications.
- b- The chapter name where the member is currently enrolled at the time of applying for all degrees and awards shall be the chapter listed on the applications.

The policies of the above mentioned issued will require much cooperation by all concerned. It is highly recommended that a cooperative attitude be displayed at all times and that the best interests of the student (s) involved be given the utmost consideration.

#### **D. Ruling for chapters submitting late dues**

FFA chapters which submitted rosters, dues, and or a program of activities postmarked after the November 30th deadline may select a maximum of four of the following listed Maryland FFA Association for participation, awards, recognition and contest trips, etc. with full privileges.

##### **Spring Judging CDE's**

Agronomy, Ag Mechanics \*, Farm Business Management, Food Science, Horticulture, Meat Evaluation, Milk Quality, Nursery/Landscape

##### **State Convention CDE's**

Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Issues, Ag Knowledge Bowl, Agricultural Sales, Creed Speaking \*, Environmental & Nat. Resources, Extemporaneous Public Speaking (Jr/Sr) \*, FFA Knowledge, Floriculture, Forestry, Horticulture Bowl, Job Interview, Marketing Plan, Parliamentary Procedure \*, Prepared Public Speaking (Jr/Sr) \*, Talent, Veterinary Science.

##### **Single Day CDE's**

Agriscience Fair, Dairy Handling, Dairy Evaluation, Horse Judging, Land Judging, Livestock Judging, Poultry Judging, Tractor Operators\*.

\*Must qualify in Regional CDE to participate in State CDE.

FFA chapters submitting late dues must indicate on CDE registration forms (spring judging, state convention, and single day events) in which CDE they desire to have full privileges. These chapters may participate in as many FFA CDE's as desired; however, awards, recognition and trips will only be given in the four CDE's selected and indicated in advance.

### **E. Operational Procedures for Maryland FFA Activities**

1. Travel/activity accident insurance is provided for all state and national activities requiring travel from the home chapter to the event. This policy does not cover MD FFA Regional events.
2. The completed MD FFA Waiver (Maryland FFA emergency medical form, waiver of liability, personal conduct agreement, and promotional release) is required for all state and national activities and must accompany the student when traveling to/from and during the activity.
3. Initial communications regarding activities specify lodging name, lodging address and lodging phone number for school and parental use will be provided with the registration.
4. Public transportation is an acceptable means of travel where movement between officially sanctioned activities is necessary at state and national activities.
5. For both state and national activities, students are required to travel in groups of three or more when walking or traveling by vehicle.
6. Curfew for all state and national activities is 11:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. unless otherwise specified by the MD FFA Executive Director.
7. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted, regardless of age at any FFA activity.
8. The use of drugs for non-medical purposes is not permitted at any FFA activity.
9. Paraphernalia connected with drugs or alcoholic beverages is not permitted at any FFA activities.
10. The use of fireworks is not permitted at any FFA activity.
11. Unbecoming behavior is not permitted during any FFA activity.
12. Smoking or the use of any tobacco/vapor product is not permitted during any FFA activity.
13. FFA Official dress is required during all sessions, specified contests, banquets and other events.
14. All FFA members are required to attend all events and sessions while attending state and national activities, unless approved by the member's chapter advisor or MD FFA State Staff.
15. The State FFA Staff will be responsible for the State FFA Officers and will coordinate all state and national activities. The school designated advisor and/or parent chaperone is responsible for each member of their chapter participating in those activities.
16. All participants of state or national activities must be registered through the MD FFA Association.
17. Special transportation arrangements at national activities may be arranged by state staff members if conditions warrant such action.
18. Advisors must attend or provide substitute supervision for all state and national activities for which they have FFA members present. In cases where the advisor cannot attend, a suitable chaperone that meets the requirements of both the local school system and the state FFA office must be provided with advance knowledge given to the state FFA office.

19. For all national conferences and conventions, a second state staff member should be assigned if registration exceeds 75 people.