

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,

January 19, 2017, April 10, 2023

A. State Career and Leadership 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 and Leadership 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 30th of the current school year:

- i. A written chapter program of activities and a budget for the current school year.
- ii The membership roster of the first semester enrollees must be submitted online to the National FFA and full payment to the “Maryland FFA Association” by November 30th of the current year, and second semester enrollees by February 15th . All dues for state and national must be paid in full to qualify to participate in any State FFA CDE/LDE.
- iii Chapters participating in the affiliate membership program must verify their affiliate status by October 15th of the current year and submit their roster and full payment by November 30th of the current year.

b- A student is eligible to participate in Maryland FFA activities if:

- i a member of a chapter is in good standing with the MD FFA Association and, 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/LDE’s as an individual. A student who has qualified at the regional level for an individual Speaking LDE 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/LDE if:

- i. They were previously a member of the first-place winning team (does not apply to the alternate) in the same Maryland State CDE/LDE, or;
- ii. participated in the same National CDE/LDE.

2. Team Composition and Scoring

a. Nationally Certified Career and Leadership 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 CDE/LDE 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.

b. Non-nationally Certified Events:

- i. Chapters may enter a team of 3 or 4 members and only the top three individual scores will be used to calculate the total team score: Land Judging, and Horticulture Judging.
- ii. Chapters may enter a team of 3 or 4 in the following State 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/LDE's

- a. Each MD FFA regional qualifying event may submit the following topped ranked participants for state competition. 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. Four junior and four senior prepared public speakers
 - iv. Four creed speakers
 - v. 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 Employment Skills LDE.
- d. A member may only participate in one CDE/LDE's held during the State Spring Judging Event.
- e. A member may participate in only one CDE/LDE's scheduled concurrently during the State Convention. However, a member may participate in one team event held concurrently with one of the following individual events should they be named a top four finalist. (Jr/Sr Prepared Public Speaking, Jr/Sr Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Creed Speaking)

4. FFA Official Dress

- a. Students are to be in FFA Official Dress when participating in CDE/LDE's as set by the National CDE/LDE Handbook.

5. State CDE/LDE's shall be scheduled as follows:

Spring Judging CDE/LDE's: Ag Mechanics*, Agriscience Fair, Agronomy, Farm Business Management, Floriculture, Food Science, Meat Evaluation, Milk Quality and Products, Nursery/Landscape, and Veterinary Science.

State Convention CDE/LDE's: Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Issues, Ag Knowledge Bowl, Agricultural Sales, Creed Speaking*, Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Extemporaneous Public Speaking (Jr/Sr) *, FFA Knowledge, Horticulture Knowledge Bowl, Employment Skills, Marketing Plan, Parliamentary Procedure, Prepared Public Speaking (Jr/Sr)*, Talent.

Single Day CDE/LDE's: Dairy Handling, Dairy Evaluation, Forestry, Environmental & Natural Resources, Horse Evaluation, Horticulture Judging, Land Judging, Livestock Evaluation, Poultry Evaluation, and Tractor Operators*.

* Must qualify in Regional CDE/LDE to participate in a State CDE/LDE.

Note: All CDE/LDE's are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Formal notification will be communicated to all chapters as soon as the information is made available.

6. All CDE/LDE's have a \$10.00 registration fee/individual, with a \$40 registration fee/team.
7. The method of breaking ties will be determined by the CDE/LDE's committee prior to the start of the event and as outlined in the National FFA Handbook for the event.
8. Any communication between contestants and/or any assistance given to a team member from any source except from the CDE/LDE officials during an event will result in disqualification of the individual and/or the team by the Superintendent.
9. Cell phones will not be allowed in any Maryland FFA CDE/LDE. Retention or use of a cell phone during a CDE/LDE will be sufficient cause to disqualify the individual and team.
10. Only non-programmable calculators are allowed to be used in any Maryland FFA CDE/LDE.
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/LDE event and be picked up at completion of the event.
12. The following must be emailed by May 15th to the State FFA Executive Director for each of the events listed below:
 - a. Employment Skills submission online.
 - b. Prepared Public Speaking manuscripts with signed originality statement (Jr/Sr).
 - c. Marketing Plan written summary.
 - d. Agricultural Issues written portfolio, bring 5 copies with presentation documents due at check in
 - e. Agricultural Communications written portfolio.
 - f. Exception: Due date of March 15th for Agriscience Fair application and abstract

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/LDE's will be reviewed by the chairperson or superintendent before each event begins. Scoring materials will be provided for each CDE/LDE.
14. When only one team or individual registers by the deadline, that team or individual, upon presenting or demonstrating skills to meet the judging criteria to advance, 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/LDE rules and resolve conflicts. Please see individual State CDE/LDE Rules for specifics of each event.
16. The Maryland FFA Association, Inc. provides awards for Maryland State FFA CDE/LDE's as described below through the support of the Maryland FFA Foundation and the Maryland Agricultural Fair Board.

- a. **Individual Events:** Receive 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place, Gold Medals; 4th, 5th, & 6th place, Silver Medals; 7th, 8th, 9th, & 10th place, Bronze Medals. All 1st place individual Medal shall have a “1st” engraved on the medal. LDE’s with final rounds will be awarded with Gold Medals to top four finalists, then in each qualifying room: Silver Medals: 3rd and 4th place, and Bronze: 5th place.
- b. **Team events with individual activities:** Award medals will be presented to the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place, Gold Medals; 4th, 5th, & 6th place, Silver Medals; 7th, 8th, 9th, & 10th place, Bronze Medals. All 1st place individual Medal shall have a “1st” engraved on the medal. Team member plaques will be given to the 1st and 2nd place teams.
- c. **Team events with no individual activities:** Award medals to all 1st place team members, Gold Medals; 2nd place team members, Silver Medals; and receive 1st & 2nd place member plaques. Special awards may be given in certain CDE/LDE’s with approval of the State FFA Executive Director.

B. Out of State CDE/LDE’s

1. Chapter advisors must check with team members to verify that they will participate in out-of-state CDE/LDE’s and must confirm their intentions by May 1st for Spring CDE/LDE and July 1st for State Convention CDE/LDE with the State FFA Executive Director.
2. Teams representing Maryland in interstate and national CDE/LDE’s shall be comprised of members from one chapter and must contain two members of the original team. If an extra team member is needed, they should come from one of the alternates that the chapter had in the CDE/LDE’S 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, they forfeit the opportunity to attend the event and 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/LDE, 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/LDE if a team/individual is declared ineligible or unable to participate within thirty days of the CDE/LDE 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 or 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. The student was enrolled in the program previously.
 - ii. The student has an agricultural occupational objective.
 - iii. The student maintains a supervised agricultural experience program with records.
 - iv. The student remains in good standing as a FFA member.

- v. Student is in a systematic agriculture program that prepared him/her for their respective agricultural occupational objective as outline 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.

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

Operating Policy:

- a. A student will pay dues to only one designated chapter but may participate in chapter 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 an official FFA CDE/LDE, that student cannot cross over to the team in the same CDE/LDE of another chapter of which they are a member and compete on the state or national level with the other school.
- c. A student can represent only one chapter in any official FFA State or National activity.

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

Operating Policy:

- a. The FFA Advisor of the chapter where the member is currently enrolled, shall be the advisor to sign all award and degree applications.
- b. The chapter name where the member is currently enrolled at the time of applying for all awards and degrees 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 always displayed and that the best interest 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 after the November 30th deadline will be notified by the Executive Director and may select a maximum of four of the following listed Maryland FFA Association activities for participation, awards, recognition, contest trips, etc. with full privileges.

Spring Judging CDE/LDE's: Ag Mechanics, Agriscience Fair, Agronomy, Farm Business Management, Floriculture, Food Science, Meat Evaluation, Milk Quality, Nursery/Landscape, and Veterinary Science.

State Convention CDE/LDE's: Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Issues Forum, Ag Knowledge Bowl, Agricultural Sales, Creed Speaking, Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Extemporaneous Public Speaking (Jr/Sr), FFA Knowledge, Floriculture, Horticulture Knowledge Bowl, Employment Skills, Marketing Plan, Parliamentary Procedure, Prepared Public Speaking (Jr/Sr), and Talent.

Single Day CDE/LDE's: Dairy Handling, Dairy Evaluation, Forestry, Environmental & Natural Resources, Horse Evaluation, Horticulture Judging, Land Judging, Livestock Evaluation, Poultry

Evaluation, and Tractor Operators.

FFA chapters submitting late dues must indicate on CDE/LDE registration forms (Spring Judging, State Convention, and Single Day events) in which CDE/LDE's they desire to have full privileges. These chapters may participate in as many FFA CDE/LDE's as desired; however, awards, recognition and trips will only be given in the four 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 to travel in groups comprised of three or more individuals from the MD FFA delegation at all times.
6. Curfew for all state and national activities is from 11:00 pm until 6:00 am, 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 activity.
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. 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 management of the State FFA Officer team.
16. The school designated advisor/teacher and/or parent chaperone is responsible for each student member of their chapter participating in local, state and national activities.
17. All participants of state or national activities must be registered through the MD FFA Association.
18. Special transportation arrangements at National FFA activities may be arranged by State FFA staff members if conditions warrant such action.
19. Advisors must be present or provide substitute supervision for all FFA members present at state and national activities for which they attend. 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.
20. For all national conference and conventions, a second state staff member should be assigned if registration exceeds 75 people.
21. Students may not enter sleeping rooms that they are not assigned to without supervision of the chapter advisor.