



NEW JERSEY  
FFA ASSOCIATION

OFFICIAL POLICY

## Career and Leadership Development Event Participation

*Approved and adopted by the Executive Board on May 23, 2019.*

Education and integrity are important values at the center of the New Jersey FFA Association (the “Association”), especially in developing tomorrow’s leaders for the workforce through career success. Career and Leadership Development Events are integral to providing students and members with the opportunities to learn about and gain knowledge and skill in numerous fields represented in the food, agriculture, and natural resources industries. CDEs and LDEs are rigorously crafted to meet the standards of their respective fields of occupation, the industry, and other crucial career skills.

This policy affects the Executive Board of the New Jersey FFA Association (the “Executive Board”), the Office of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Education (the “Office”), any individual student or team, and the chapter advisors.

### Definitions

**Career Development Event** (the “CDE”) means a competitive event conducted for the purpose of developing the skills of students in certain fields of the food, agriculture, and natural resources industries. The full list of CDEs to be governed by this policy shall be held by the Office.

**Leadership Development Event** (the “LDE”) means a competitive event conducted for the purpose of developing soft skills of students in areas not limited to public speaking, parliamentary procedure, and employment. The full list of LDEs to be governed by this policy shall be held by the Office.

**Participant** means an individual student or a group of individual students competing collectively as a team. When referring to the individuals competing collectively as a team, Participant shall mean all individuals of that team without regard to whether an individual is counted in the score of that team.

**Participant List Deadline** means the date and time issued by the Office by which a Participant for any CDE or LDE must be submitted.

## Procedures for Appropriate Participation

### A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The CDE/LDE year shall be considered August 1 – July 31. To be eligible for participation, the Participant must have active membership (in grades 7-12) in good standing with the local chapter, State Association and National FFA Organization for the school year during which the event is held, be enrolled in an Agricultural Education course and maintain a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program.

### B. PARTICIPANT LIST SUBMISSION

The Participant name(s) for a CDE or LDE (collectively, the “Event”) must be submitted to the Office by the Participant List Deadline. Participant List submission by the deadline shall include all applicable information required by the Office (including waivers and event materials). Any missing information for the Participant shall make the submission incomplete.

### C. ATTENDANCE AT THE EVENT

The Participant of an Event must be physically present, or otherwise present where applicable, by the start of the Event. Arrangements may be made for a Participant to arrive later than the start of the Event on an individual basis and approved by the State FFA Advisor. Unless an arrangement has been made, any Participant not present at the start of the Event shall be disqualified to represent the Association for that Event on the national level.

### D. PARTICIPATION AT THE EVENT

The Participant of an Event must complete all portions of the Event as conducted on the day of the Event. Where a Participant is a collective team of individual students, each individual must complete the entire Event. If any individual student of a team fails to complete the entire event, the collective team will be deemed incomplete.

No Participant, as an individual or a team, shall leave the Event early for a reason not approved by the State FFA Advisor. Exceptions may be granted by the State FFA Advisor on an individual basis.

Failure to comply with any term listed above in this section shall cause a Participant to be disqualified to represent the Association as its representative for that Event on the national level.

### E. REQUIRED NUMBER OF TEAM MEMBERS

To be considered a team eligible to advance to further competition (Big E and/or Nationals), the number of individual students who make up the collective team must coincide with the number of participants allowed and the number of scores counted for team score required by National FFA. In the case of substitutions beyond the state level, not less than one half (50%) of the team must be original individual students when certifying the team for competition on the national level.

## Sixty-Percent Mastery Policy

### A. PURPOSE

To raise the expectations of students competing in state level events and to ensure the aptitude and preparedness of teams representing New Jersey in National FFA Career Development Events.

### B. BACKGROUND

As education across the country evolves and becomes increasingly more rigorous, it is imperative that the New Jersey FFA Association raises the standards for its teams qualifying for national level competition. Setting higher standards will promote greater achievement and will certify that teams representing New Jersey in national level CDEs are adequately prepared and are proficient in the career area in which they are competing. Each first-place team must achieve a 60% of the team score (60% of the total available points) before it will be deemed New Jersey FFA Association's representative to the national event. In most cases, a 60% is the equivalent of a passing grade using the academic grading scale. The policy is not intended to take opportunities away from students, but is instead intended to increase student awareness, preparedness, and aptitude when they compete in events. This policy not only sets educational expectations higher, but it encourages students to attain greater competency in their chosen field of study.

### **C. POLICY**

Teams must achieve at least 60% of the total available points in order to advance to national level competition.

- Achievement will be determined by taking the total team points earned and divide it by the total number of team points available.
- Regardless of whether the team achieves the 60% standard, it will still be recognized (including plaques/medals/etc.) as the first-place team at the State FFA Convention.
- Regardless of whether the team achieves the 60% standard, it is welcome to compete at the Big E. Scores at the Big E will not be considered for the sixty-percent mastery policy.
- If a team does not reach the 60% standard, the team can request an opportunity to re-test later in the year for another chance at representing New Jersey FFA at the National FFA Convention. The re-test will consist of a multiple-choice exam related to the content in the career area and be administered online through MyCAERT. Request must be made, in writing, to the State FFA Specialist by May 1. Re-tests must be completed by May 30. State Convention events will be provided an extension that is mutually agreed upon by the State FFA Specialist and chapter advisor, but no later than June 15.
- If the team does not reach the 60% standard, and decides not to re-test, team members are able to compete in that career development again the following year.
- If a team achieves the 60% standard, at least half the team must be original team members when certifying a team for national level career development events.
- If a team achieves the 60% standard but is unable to attend the national event, the second-place team will be offered the chance to compete (as long as it has achieved the 60% standard). The same opportunity to re-test will apply.

## **Awards**

Any Participant disqualified at an Event shall not receive an award or recognition by the Association at the State FFA Convention or any other state program.

## **Participation Beyond State-level Events**

### **A. THE BIG E**

No Participant that has been disqualified at an Event on the Association-level shall be eligible to participate in the Big E. Participation at the Big E shall not be a factor in eligibility to represent the Association on the national level.

### **B. NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Where a Participant is a collective team of individual students, not less than one half (50%) of

the team must be original individual students when certifying the team for competition on the national level.

If the first place Participant of an Event is not able to attend the Event at the national level, the Association shall ask the second place Participant of the Event to compete on the national level.

## **Future Participation**

If a Participant, whether as an individual student or a collective team of individual students, wins an event uncontested, that Participant has the option to forfeit the opportunity to represent New Jersey on the national level. If forfeited, the Participant would then be eligible to compete in that event again on the state level.

Any Participant, whether as an individual student or as an individual student of a collective team, that is disqualified by any reason listed in this policy shall be eligible to participate in the Event the next year.

This policy shall effectively imply the repeal and replacement of any previously existing policy by the Association, concerning the impact of participation at Events for national level competition.

This policy shall take effect in the 2019-2020 school year.

The Executive Board shall have the authority to uphold this policy to the full extent of the powers and privileges granted to it in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

## **Turf Management Career Development Event Scholarship Policy**

The three highest scoring individuals in the Turf Management Career Development Event will be eligible for scholarships at Rutgers University if they are accepted and enroll in either the Twenty Week Turf Management Program or as a four-year Rutgers, School of Environmental and Biological Science student with a Turf-grass Management major. The scholarship would be applied towards first year tuition.

The Turf Management Career Development Event provides the opportunity for the students to receive college scholarships to attend the Turfgrass Science Program at Rutgers. Currently the scholarships are available to individuals who place 1st-3rd in the event, regardless of how the team places.

In an effort to encourage the study of Turfgrass Science in college, an exception will be made for an individual on a 1st place team who didn't rank 1st-3rd individually. The new policy will allow an individual from a 1st place Turf Management team to compete in the event again, but only as an individual. This participation will not affect the team rank. The student must have active membership in a chapter in good standing and will be eligible for individual medals and certificates. The student is limited to one attempt to compete as an individual for the scholarship.