

# NC FBLA BYLAWS

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## Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the “North Carolina Chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America” and may be referred to as “NC FBLA”.

## Article II. Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of FBLA is to provide as an integral part of the instructional program additional opportunities for students (grades 6-12) in business and/or business- related fields to develop vocational and career supportive competencies and to promote civic and personal responsibilities.

Section 2. The specific goals of FBLA are to:

- Develop competent, aggressive business leadership;
- Strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work;
- Create more interest in and understanding of American business enterprise;
- Encourage members in the development of individual projects which contribute to the improvement of home, business, and community;
- Develop character, prepare for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism;
- Encourage and practice efficient money management;
- Encourage scholarship and promote school loyalty;
- Assist students in the establishment of occupational goals; and
- Facilitate the transition from school to work.

## Article III. Membership

Section 1. FBLA membership shall consist of members of chartered local chapters. These members shall hold membership in their state and national chapters. Individual members shall be recognized only through the state chapter of FBLA.

Section 2. Membership shall consist of the following classes of members:

Active Members shall be students who have an interest in or plan to pursue a career in business and/or business-related fields, who accept the purpose of FBLA, subscribe to its creed, demonstrate willingness to contribute to good school-community relations, and possess qualities for employment. Active members shall pay dues as established by FBLA and NC FBLA.

Honorary Life Members shall be elected to a state or local chapter by a majority vote. They shall be persons who are assisting in the advancement of business education and/or who

are rendering outstanding service to FBLA. Honorary Life Members shall not vote or hold office and shall not be required to pay dues.

## **Article IV. Dues and Finance**

Section 1. Each local chapter shall pay annual state member dues per member as established by the NC FBLA Executive Board.

Section 2. Also, the national membership dues as set by the National FBLA, Incorporated shall be paid by all high school chapter members. National and state dues are uniformed for both middle and high school chapters.

Section 3. The fiscal year of FBLA shall be July 1 through June 30.

Section 4. A financial review shall be made annually by a certified public accountant.

Section 5. The state office shall administer all FBLA finances, including the James L. White Scholarship account and any other such accounts. The Executive Board shall approve an annual budget prior to each fiscal year. The State Adviser shall provide quarterly financial reports for Board review. The Board may appoint a Finance or Audit Committee to oversee fiscal compliance. Authorized signers on NC FBLA accounts shall include the State Adviser and Board Chairperson or designee.

## **Article V. NC FBLA Executive Board**

### **Section 1. Membership**

Voting members of the NC FBLA Executive Board shall be composed of the FBLA State Chairperson, the FBLA State Adviser, the FBLA State Officers, an elected Board representative from each of the regions as established by the Department of Public Instruction and the NC FBLA State Office, middle level representative and a Professional Division representative appointed by the NC FBLA State adviser. Business, Finance and Marketing Education State Consultants serve on the board in a non-voting capacity.

### **Section 2. Election of Executive Board Members**

One business education teacher who is a local active chapter adviser shall be elected to serve on the NC FBLA Executive Board from each region by vote of the local chapter membership. Each local chapter may have only one nominee.

Regions are:

|         |           |               |         |
|---------|-----------|---------------|---------|
| Eastern | Southeast | Triangle East | Central |
| Triad   | Southwest | Northwest     | Western |

One business education teacher who is a local active middle level chapter adviser shall be elected to serve on the NC FBLA Executive Board by vote of the state middle level membership. Each middle level chapter may have only one nominee.

The term of office for NC FBLA Executive Board members shall begin following the annual NC FBLA State Leadership Conference, and they will serve a consecutive three-year term. Terms of office of NC FBLA Executive Board members shall be staggered so election of all eight regional members will not occur within the same year. No region shall have more than one elected member on the board at the same time. In the event that a vacancy is created by a board member, a second election shall be held in the region of that member to fill the vacancy. The new member shall be elected to fill the unexpired term only.

### Section 3. Duties and Authority of Board Members

The NC FBLA Executive Board is empowered by the Constitution to act in an advisory capacity to the NC FBLA State Chapter, NC FBLA State Chairperson, and NC FBLA State Adviser in developing operating policies and procedures of the organization. In this capacity, the group may advise in the following areas:

- Attendance at conferences.
- Student behavior at regional, state, or national conferences.
- Contests and elections at regional, state, or national conferences.
- Payment of dues to State and National Offices.
- Qualifications of regional, state, and national officers.
- Any other area requested by NC FBLA State Chairperson.

Changes in State Chapter rules, regulations, and procedure may be made in the following manner:

- By a simple majority vote of the NC FBLA Executive Board, or
- By a decision of the NC FBLA State Chairperson when deemed necessary.

A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum. Electronic or hybrid meetings are permitted, and votes may be conducted electronically with prior notice.

Board members must avoid conflicts of interest and disclose any potential conflicts in writing. Members with conflicts must recuse themselves from related discussions or votes.

### Section 4. Responsibilities of Board Members

At regional meetings, the NC FBLA Executive Board members from the regions shall be the final authority in the interpretation of the Constitution, bylaws, policies, and procedures of the association. At any other time, the NC FBLA Executive Board member shall act as liaison between the state staff and board and individual local chapter advisers in interpreting actions of the board. Board members shall present requests to the board from one or several local chapter advisers in their respective regions. Board members shall offer encouragement, advice, and training to members of their respective regions in carrying out the FBLA program.

The Chairperson of the NC FBLA Executive Board shall be designated by the NC FBLA State Adviser and approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board. A recording secretary shall be appointed on a yearly basis, rotating by regions. It shall be the responsibility of the recording secretary to send minutes of board meetings to the NC FBLA State Chairperson for distribution to all local chapters. It shall be the responsibility of board members to discuss and clarify those minutes with local chapter advisers in their respective regions.

The NC FBLA Executive Board may need to establish standing and ad hoc committees in order to help carry out their work. It shall be the responsibility of board members to serve as chairpersons of standing committees. Members of the NC FBLA Executive Board shall be subject to removal from the board if they do not carry out their responsibilities.

#### Section 5. Eligibility Requirements for NC FBLA Executive Board Members

Active local FBLA chapter advisers shall qualify to run for NC FBLA Executive Board if they meet the following guidelines:

- Served as an adviser or co-adviser of an active FBLA chapter for at least three years;
- Attended and participated in at least three leadership conferences at the state, regional, or national levels;
- Attended and participated in regional FBLA meetings;
- Be willing to assume the responsibilities of Board members; and
- Be willing to promote and uphold the high ideals of FBLA.

### **Article VI. Executive Council**

Section 1. The NC FBLA State Chairperson, the NC FBLA State Adviser, Business, Finance and Marketing Education State Consultant, and the NC FBLA State President shall constitute the Executive Council. DPI consultants serve in a non-voting advisory capacity and do not hold governing authority within the organization.

Section 2. The NC FBLA State Chairperson shall be empowered to call meetings with the agreement of the NC FBLA State Adviser.

Section 3. The NC FBLA State Chairperson shall preside at all Executive Council meetings.

Section 4. The Executive Council shall represent and act for the association as the occasion may demand and plan for the overall welfare of the association, by creating the agenda for NC FBLA Executive Board meetings. This agenda shall be developed to include planning for the overall welfare of the association, leadership development activities, state leadership training sessions, and the NC FBLA State Leadership Conference. Additionally, the Executive Council shall take into account any new developments with curriculum from the Department of Public Instruction when creating the agenda as it aligns with FBLA's goals.

## Article VII. Officers and Elections

### Section 1. Elected State Officers

The following FBLA State Officers shall be elected by the FBLA voting delegates at the annual NC FBLA State Leadership Conference: President and eight Regional Vice Presidents.

### Section 2. Appointment of Parliamentarian

The State Parliamentarian shall be selected based on the parliamentary procedure test score and the score received from the screening committee. This student must have the recommendation of the local chapter adviser.

Section 3. The adviser for each regional vice president shall be responsible for planning their respective region's annual competitive events meetings. Competitive event entry forms and contest materials will be provided by the state office.

### Section 4. Qualifications for State Office

Only active members shall be eligible to hold state office. Only those applicants present at the NC FBLA State Leadership Conference and officially certified by the Officer Screening Committee shall be eligible for nomination as a candidate.

To be considered for an office in FBLA, an applicant shall:

- Have at least one full school year remaining in the educational program in a secondary school.
- Hold or have held an elected or appointed office in the local chapter or region and/or served as chairperson of an outstanding committee; hold or have held elective or appointed offices in other youth organizations.
- Be recommended by the chapter advisers and school administrator, and given parental permission to be a candidate.
- Filed the following with the State Office prior to the State Leadership Conference:
  - a) Officer application
  - b) Resume, including qualifications for the office and plans for the next school year.
  - c) Statement of recommendation from the FBLA Adviser and the high school principal.
  - d) Statement of parental approval.
  - e) Transcript
- Have maintained at least a 2.5 unweighted GPA or above in high school.
- Candidates and officers must also sign and adhere to the NC FBLA Code of Conduct and uphold the values of professionalism, integrity, and service.

### Section 5. Nominations

Nominations shall be made as follows:

- A local chapter may nominate one candidate for president and one candidate for regional vice president. A nominee for state office must be elected by a two-thirds vote of the members of his/her local chapter.
- The application for nomination must be in the state office by the date given on the Calendar of Activities in the Chapter Management Notebook.
- If no nominations are received from a region for regional vice president, the NC FBLA Executive Board will appoint a regional vice president.

#### Section 6. Voting

Each chapter in good standing shall be entitled to send voting delegates from its active membership to the NC FBLA State Leadership Conference in accordance with the following:

- 50 members and under -- 2 voting delegates
- 51-100 members -- 3 voting delegates
- Over 100 members -- 4 voting delegates

Voting shall be done by official delegates from each chapter at the annual NC FBLA State Leadership Conference using the voting procedures published prior to the beginning of the NC FBLA State Leadership Conference:

The president shall be elected by vote of all official delegates in attendance at the annual NC FBLA State Leadership Conference. The Regional Vice Presidents will be elected by vote of only the delegates from the schools in the region they will represent.

#### Section 7. Term of Office

State officers shall be elected or appointed for one year, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the NC FBLA State Leadership Conference, and shall end at the following NC FBLA State Leadership Conference.

#### Section 8. Vacancy in Office

Should the office of President become vacant, the Vice-Presidents shall select from among themselves one to assume the duties of the President. The NC FBLA Executive Board must confirm the decision of the Vice-Presidents before the office of President is considered filled. A vacancy in any office, other than that of President, shall be filled by appointment by the NC FBLA Executive Board.

#### Section 9. Removal from Office

In the event that an elected or appointed state officer does not carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned that office, and in the event that a state officer does not behave in an exemplary manner which upholds the high ideals of FBLA, the officer shall be subject to removal from state office by the State Adviser and the State Chairperson. The Executive Board also retains the authority to disqualify candidates who fail to meet eligibility or conduct requirements.

## **Article VIII. Duties of State Officers**

### **Section 1. President**

It shall be the duty of the NC FBLA State President to preside over all NC FBLA Executive Board meetings at which time plans will be made for the NC FBLA State Leadership Conference, various state projects, and the National Leadership Conference. The President shall appoint all special committees as deemed necessary and shall serve as ex-officio member of these committees. The President must promote chapter organization as well as chapter activities. These tasks, which are most important, can be accomplished by three emails. At the beginning of the school year, the first email should be sent to each chapter requesting that they cooperate with the NC FBLA State President during the year. The second email should be sent to chapters who are interested in forming new chapters. This email should be a follow-up email to one written by the State Chairperson and/or State Adviser. The third email should be an email of congratulations to the chapter in becoming an active chapter of FBLA. It shall be the duty of the outgoing NC FBLA State President to prepare the annual activities report for the state chapter. The President shall also present state activities reports at regional and national meetings as requested.

### **Section 2. Regional Vice-Presidents**

It is the duty of the regional vice presidents, acting under the direction of the President, to promote the welfare of the FBLA organization in the state. Should the office of President become vacant, the Vice-Presidents shall select from among themselves one to assume the duties of the President. The NC FBLA Executive Board must confirm the decision of the Vice-Presidents before the office of President is considered filled. The vacant vice president's position will then be filled by the NC FBLA Executive Board. The Vice-Presidents shall carry out specific duties as may be assigned by these bylaws, the President, or State Adviser.

### **Section 3 Parliamentarian**

The Parliamentarian shall be thoroughly familiar with parliamentary procedure and have sufficient knowledge to rule on all points of order during meetings of the association. The Parliamentarian should have a copy of the state and national constitutions and bylaws and a copy of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised on hand at all times.

## **Article IX. Meetings and Conferences**

Section 1. Local chapters shall hold their meetings monthly or more throughout the school year and at such time and place as may be decided upon by the local chapter and according to local school policy.

Section 2. The regional competitive events shall be held during December and January of each academic year. Management of the fall workshops will rotate through the schools in the

region according to a plan developed and managed through the leadership of the NC FBLA Executive Board member.

Section 3. The NC FBLA State Leadership Conference shall be held annually at least 45 days prior to the National Leadership Conference at a time and place to be determined by the NC FBLA State Chairperson and NC FBLA State Adviser. Official meetings and conferences may be conducted in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format as approved by the Executive Board. In the event of circumstances beyond NC FBLA's control such as natural disasters, public health emergencies, or government restrictions, conferences may be modified, postponed, or held virtually.

## **Article X. Rules, Regulations, and Policies**

Section 1. Such rules, regulations, and policies are deemed necessary for the proper conduct of the organization shall be adopted.

Section 2. No rules, regulations, and policies shall be adopted which are contrary to the state and national constitutions.

Section 3. In all meetings, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall serve as standard procedure. Operational details shall be governed by the NC FBLA Standard Operating Procedures Manual, which the Executive Board may amend by majority vote.

## **Article XI. Integrity, Artificial Intelligence, and Cheating**

### Section 1: Statement of Integrity

NC FBLA is committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, honesty, and fair play among its members. Cheating in any form undermines the core values of our organization and will not be tolerated.

### Section 2: Definition of Cheating

Cheating is defined as any act of dishonesty, deception, or fraud intended to gain an unfair advantage, including but not limited to plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of data, and using unauthorized materials during competitions or assessments. Cheating by use of AI is defined below:

- The use of AI in any form to gain an unfair advantage, such as automating responses, generating solutions, or accessing unauthorized information, is strictly prohibited. This includes but is not limited to using AI-powered devices, software, or algorithms during competitions or assessments. NC FBLA reserves the right to monitor and employ detection methods to identify any unauthorized use of AI during competitions or assessments. Such methods may include but are not limited to proctoring software,

### Section 3: Consequences of Cheating

Any member or chapter found in breach of integrity through cheating will face strict consequences. Upon confirmation of a breach, the following actions will be taken:

- **Placement on Probation:** The student(s) involved in the cheating incident and the entire chapter will be placed on probation. During this probationary period, the chapter and its members will not be eligible to participate in any NC FBLA competitions, events, or programs. The probationary period will be determined by the NC FBLA Executive Board based on the severity of the cheating incident.
- **Educational Requirement:** The student(s) involved in the cheating incident will be required to complete an educational program on academic integrity and ethics, as specified by the NC FBLA Executive Board.
- **Probation Review:** At the end of the probationary period, the chapter's eligibility to participate in NC FBLA activities will be reviewed by the NC FBLA Executive Board. The chapter must demonstrate a commitment to upholding the organization's values and standards of integrity.

### Section 4: Reporting and Investigation

Members and chapters are encouraged to report any suspected cheating incidents to the NC FBLA Executive Board. All reports will be thoroughly investigated, and confidentiality maintained. All alleged violations shall be investigated promptly, and the accused shall be given an opportunity to respond before any sanctions are imposed.

### Section 5: Appeal Process

Any chapter or member who disagrees with the decision made regarding a cheating incident may appeal to the NC FBLA Executive Board. The appeal must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the decision. The Board will review the appeal and make a final decision.

## **Article XII. Amendments**

Section 1. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be submitted in writing by local chapters to the NC FBLA Executive Board.

These proposed amendments shall be reviewed by the NC FBLA Executive Board, which, in turn, shall submit them to local chapters with recommendations. Amendments may be adopted by one of two ways: Proposed amendments must be submitted at least 60 days prior to the State Leadership Conference.

- A simple majority vote of local chapter delegates in attendance at the NC FBLA State Leadership Conference, or
- A simple majority of local chapter delegates' votes by email.

In urgent situations where immediate action is required, the Executive Board may adopt temporary amendments subject to ratification by voting delegates at the next State Leadership Conference.

### **Article XIII. Governance and Compliance**

NC FBLA shall operate in accordance with all applicable provisions of the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act and maintain its good standing as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No part of the organization's net earnings shall benefit any private individual. In the event of dissolution, all assets shall be distributed to another nonprofit organization with similar educational purposes.

Revised and approved March 13, 2026