

Chapter Bylaws for National Junior Honor Society

SOAR Chapter 2023-24

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the SOAR Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society of West Brazos Junior High School.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character and citizenship in students of West Brazos Junior High School.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1. This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the NJHS National Constitution. See www.nhs.us/constitutions

Section 2. The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 3. Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal (See Article V. Section 1 of the NJHS National Constitution.)

Section 4. Our chapter of NJHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, and disability. This policy on nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selections, discipline, and dismissal of members.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation. Honorary members are selected at the discretion of the faculty council. Alumni and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3: Eligibility:

- a. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at WBJH.
- b. Sixth grade candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 94.00 for the 3rd nine week grading period of their sixth-grade year.
- c. Seventh grade candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 94.00 which will be calculated at the end of their seventh-grade year.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their attendance and disciplinary records.

ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, non voting member of the faculty council.

Section 2. The selection of active members shall be held once a year at the end of the 3rd Nine weeks of the sixth and seventh-grade year.

Section 3. Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Once scholastic eligibility is determined, academic and disciplinary records will be reviewed. If a student was/is placed in DAEP, or was/is in legal trouble he/she will be ineligible for selection for NJHS. Students must meet compulsory attendance for the current academic year. Additionally, students may not have numerous referrals and/or severe referrals (i.e.fighting).
- c. Candidates that have met eligibility shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Candidate Information Form for further consideration. The candidate who does not return this form by the due date may not be considered for membership.
- d. The Faculty Council shall review the Candidate Information Forms and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of the membership.

Section 6. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The faculty council shall grant to the

transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain their membership.

ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be granted the privilege to wear the emblem adopted by the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 2. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem to the chapter revoked.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, and historian.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the first meeting after induction. Any active member can nominate an eligible 7th grade member as a candidate for office during the induction period.

Section 3. Voting shall be by secret ballot. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of the chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the president to reside at the meetings of the chapter, and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

Section 5. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and be responsible for all official correspondence.

Section 7. The treasurer shall keep the record of business expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

Section 8. The Parliamentarian shall act as the liaison between NJHS and other school organizations, including WBJH Administration office.

Section 9. The Historian shall help the chapter operate according to its constitution and bylaws.

Section 10. Officers and the faculty adviser(s) shall collectively be known as the chapter's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter. Any action by the executive meeting is subject to the review of the chapter members.

Section 11. It is mandatory for officers to participate in the U.I.L. Academic Competition.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be held at least monthly. Special meetings can be called by the president with approval of the adviser.

Section 2. This chapter will conduct its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 3. Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings. Any member with more than 2 absences for monthly meetings, will be placed on probation.

Section 4. NJHS officers are expected to attend ALL officer meetings and general meetings. Attendance is imperative for planning, voting, and conducting meetings. More than 2 absences from EITHER general or officer meetings will result in possible removal from their position.

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

Section 2. All members should regularly participate in these projects.

Section 3. These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community, have the support of the administration and the faculty, be appropriate and educationally defensible, and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in individual service projects that reflect their particular talents and interests and is approved by the chapter adviser. Members are required to complete 20 individual service hours each year. The first 10 must be completed by the end of the first semester, and the remainder completed by the end of March. Members not meeting hour requirements will face probation and possible dismissal. Members are also required to complete these individual service hours in order to be eligible for any end of year activity.. These hours are in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

Section 5. Each member is strongly encouraged to compete in the UIL academic competitions in the spring. Participation is required to be eligible for any end of year activity. It is mandatory for officers to participate in the U.I.L. Academic Competition.

Section 6. The chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, character, or citizenship may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the SOAR chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member is expected to maintain their academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership in their school and community.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative GPA falls below the standard in effect when they were inducted (94), they will be given a written warning and placed on probation for the following grading period. If the cumulative GPA remains below standard at the end of the probationary period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the faculty council. This can include consideration of dismissal from the chapter. Academic probation incurred during the 4th 9-Week Grading Period will result in the student being placed on probation for the first grading period of the following academic year.

Section 3. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration for the dismissal of a member (see Section 5) These violations include, but are not limited to stealing; destruction of property; cheating; truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities or in the community.

Section 4. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness) will receive written warning notification and be placed on probation until the following grading period. Behavioral probation incurred during the 4th 9-Week Grading Period will result in the student being placed on probation for the first grading period of the following academic year. A conference may be requested by either party (faculty council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 5. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of a disciplinary action by the faculty council.

Section 6. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification from the adviser/faculty council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge(s) against them at a hearing before the faculty council prior to any vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in Article X of the NJHS National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present their defense either in person or via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing. Following the hearing, the faculty council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the faculty council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the faculty council vote will be presented to the principal for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The faculty council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.
- e. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 7. In lieu of dismissal, the faculty council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

Section 8. Any member who fails to participate in the UIL competition OR is on ACTIVE probation during the 4th Nine Weeks will be ineligible to attend the end of year field trip.

ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, AND REVIEW

Section 1. These bylaws will be approved upon receiving a two-thirds affirmative vote of all active members of the chapter, a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council, and approval by the administration.

Section 2. These bylaws shall be reviewed and, if necessary revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles V and X, which are developed by the faculty council with the approval of the principal (selection and discipline)

Revised & Approved by Faculty Council April 2023