



## AOI and Bylaw Corporate Cleanup FAQ

Updated 02.04.2026

### State Responsibilities:

**Q:** What are the next steps state associations need to take?

**A:** States are to find and review their state's Articles of Incorporation (AOI) to ensure members are provided voting rights on matters outlined in their state's bylaws.

Locate your state's FCCLA Corporate Certificate of Good Standing to ensure your state's association corporation is up-to-date.

Each state needs to send copies of their AOI, Bylaws, and Certificate of Corporation to National FCCLA to have on file for all affiliated state associations.

### Branding:

**Q:** Article VII now states, *"The National Board of Directors is legally responsible for ensuring that the FCCLA intellectual property, including its copyrighted works, name, and trademarks are used only by its express authorization or permission."* Previously, Article I stated, *"The National Organization is legally responsible for ensuring that its name is used only by its express authorization or permission."* Why was this updated and why was the tagline not included?

**A:** The prior reference to the "National Organization" was too broad. It is the specific responsibility of the National Board of Directors to protect FCCLA property and the related revenue, which is why the language was refined.

Additionally, the earlier reference to protecting only FCCLA's name was too narrow. FCCLA must protect not only its name, but also its trademarks, including FCCLA logos, as well as its copyrighted property. This protection is intended to prevent misappropriation or misuse of content FCCLA creates for its website, publications, events, and competitive programs, and to establish a clear basis for recourse should infringement occur. This work connects back to the requirements of the AOI.

### NEC Voting Rights:

**Q:** What was the reason for changing the NEC votes at a business meeting to one (1) united vote instead of ten (10) individual votes?

**A:** Concern was expressed about the NEC having ten (10) votes at a business meeting which is a larger voting block than 41 state voting delegate blocks. As the current and former NEC representatives on the National Board of Directors discussed this, they noted that the NEC already has a voice in what is being presented at the business meeting through its work with the Board. For that reason, and to promote greater equity among the states, they recommended changing the NEC's vote to one (1) collective vote.



## AOI and Bylaw Corporate Cleanup FAQ

Updated 02.04.2026

### Dues:

**Q:** With the limits on the amount the Board can increase dues, what would the Board do if they needed more funds?

**A:** As part of their fiduciary responsibilities, National FCCLA Staff and the Board of Directors stay well informed about the organization's financial needs. Together, they work to ensure the organization's funding sources are diverse. If additional operational funding were needed, they would explore other income options beyond member dues. During the annual budget process, the Board also sets parameters to help limit the need for dues increases and reduce the impact on members.

**Q:** What other CTSOs allow or don't allow members to vote on membership dues?

**A:** Based on the review of other CTSOs governing documents (bylaws, constitution and/or policies and procedures), only one (1) CTSO currently states that their membership dues are established by a majority vote of the delegates.

### Governance & Student Voice:

**Q:** Why were some bylaw updates approved by the National Board of Directors rather than voted on by members or states?

**A:** FCCLA's governing documents distinguish between bylaws that require membership approval and bylaws that, under corporate law and the Articles of Incorporation, fall under the fiduciary authority of the National Board of Directors. The updates approved by the Board were limited to areas necessary for legal compliance, risk management, and corporate governance and did not remove student leadership structures, elections, or program authority.

**Q:** Does the National Board of Directors have the authority to amend bylaws without member input?

**A:** Yes, in limited circumstances. FCCLA's Articles of Incorporation and bylaws specify which provisions require voting delegate approval and which fall under Board authority. This distinction exists to ensure the organization remains legally compliant and operationally sound while preserving member-driven governance where required.

**Q:** Is FCCLA still a student-led organization?

**A:** Yes. FCCLA remains committed to youth leadership. Students continue to lead program development, serve on the National Executive Council, hold voting roles at the National Leadership Conference, and serve as voting members of the National Board of Directors.



## AOI and Bylaw Corporate Cleanup FAQ

Updated 02.04.2026

**Q:** Has student authority or influence been reduced by these bylaw changes?

**A:** No. The core roles of students in elections, program leadership, public relations, and governance remain unchanged. The bylaw updates did not eliminate student offices, student voting delegates, or youth representation on the Board.

**Q:** Does the National Executive Council still have meaningful influence in FCCLA decisions?

**A:** Yes. The NEC remains the primary student leadership body responsible for program development, implementation, and public relations. NEC members also serve on the National Board of Directors and its committees, ensuring student perspectives are represented in governance discussions.

**Q:** Will FCCLA seek member and state input on future governance changes?

**A:** Yes. FCCLA values meaningful engagement from members and state associations and will continue to seek input through town halls, advisory groups, NEC discussions, and national meetings, when changes fall under member-voting authority and as the Board may deem necessary on fiduciary matters.