Official Dress Guidelines: Frequently Asked Questions

BACKGROUND:
The National FFA Board of Directors recently proposed a set of guidelines to clarify official dress. Several information sessions were conducted by national FFA staff in June and July to provide context, introduce the proposed guidelines and address questions.

Two webinars were conducted with the 2015 leadership delegates who served on the Official Dress committee and members of state staff. National FFA staff reviewed information provided by the National FFA Board of Directors in the recommendations document that will be presented to the 2016 delegate body. The intent was to help delegates understand why the organization is not able to enact the recommendations they provided and to demonstrate that their recommendations received serious consideration and contributed to clarity through the removal of gender references. During the 2016 State Presidents’ Conference, the same information was shared with the 2016 leadership delegates as the recommendations will be on the agenda as an item of business at the convention.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:
This FAQ document is intended to provide further clarity and background for discussion. It should not be considered as final authorization of the guidelines by either the National FFA Board of Directors or the National FFA Delegates. The questions below were posed during the webinars and at SPC.

**May FFA members wear a bowtie as part of official dress?**
A bow tie was not included in the guidelines for official FFA dress. An official FFA neck tie or an official FFA scarf should be worn.

**Will removing gender titles create confusion for new members who are not familiar with official dress?**
The National FFA Organization will provide a variety of photos of official dress for students to see and to help them determine what official dress looks like for them. Also, it is the responsibility of local agriculture teachers to help students fully understand and apply the guidelines for official dress.

**Can state staff require female state officers to wear skirts, or could they now wear slacks for official dress?**
The official FFA dress guidelines indicate that females may wear slacks or a skirt.

**Will female national officers wear slacks as official dress?**
Female national officers may choose to wear slacks as a part of official dress.

**Are cowboy boots considered as dress shoes?**
Cowboy boots may be considered as dress shoes. Members should use good judgment to ensure boots and shoes are clean.

**When would it be appropriate to wear a skirt vs. slacks for official dress?**
The proposed official FFA dress guidelines indicate that females may wear slacks or a skirt. It will be up to individual members to determine if they will wear slacks or skirts.

**Is there a required skirt length or a maximum heel length for dress shoes?**
A minimum or maximum length of a skirt or heels is not addressed in the guidelines. Members are asked to use good judgment and follow the guidelines of their local school dress codes.

**How will we ensure that Career Development Event (CDE) judges are informed of the official dress changes?**
All individuals serving as judges for Career Development Events (CDEs) go through an orientation during which the official FFA dress guidelines will be discussed.