

Rules for Party elections

Purpose

The purpose of these rules is to ensure that –
Members are properly informed about the candidates;
There is fairness between candidates, and
The process is transparent.

In pursuit of this purpose, candidates and their supporters are expected to observe the spirit, as much as the letter, of the rules and to apply common sense in applying them. In cases of doubt, the Returning Officer's guidance should be sought.

1. General

- 1.1 These rules apply to all elections to offices within the Party in which there is a ballot of all members, except an election for Leader or Deputy Leader (for which different and additional rules apply).
- 1.2 The conduct of the elections is the responsibility of the Returning Officer.
- 1.3 The membership list is confidential. It will not be released and may not be used by any candidate during an election.
- 1.4 Employees of the Party, whether involved in the administration of the elections or not, must observe strict impartiality between candidates from the date that nominations are called for. They may not sign the nomination papers nor endorse any candidate. Employees of a Local Party or any other constituent part of the Party may not use their position to promote any candidate.
- 1.5 Office Bearers of the Party may personally endorse a candidate, but may not use their position in doing so, and have a duty to assist in ensuring a fair balance between all candidates.

2. Literature

- 2.1 All written material used by candidates or by anybody appointed to act on their behalf must first be approved by the Returning Officer. Any statement that could, in the opinion of the Returning Officer, be construed as defamatory or whose publication could bring the Party or any of its members into disrepute will not be approved.
- 2.2 The Party will circulate to all members one candidate statement in support of each candidate along with the ballot paper. Candidates must provide finished artwork and text to conform to a template provided by the Party. This must be received not more than seven days after the close of nominations. Leaflets that are received late, or are not approved by the Returning Officer will not be circulated. Leaflets will be black-and-white and printed on one side. Candidates for Office Bearer positions are entitled to an A5 sized leaflet, and for all other positions an A6 sized leaflet. The Party's facilities may not otherwise be used in support of any candidate.
- 2.3 No other printed material may be published or circulated by any candidate, or by any of his or her supporters. This prohibition includes the production of any badges, posters, stickers, audio-visual or similar publicity material, or any photocopied material.

3. Telephone and electronic communication

- 3.1 Cold calling of members by telephone is not permitted. This does not preclude candidates or their friends from seeking support of members by telephone when the call is part of normal social contact.
- 3.2 The unsolicited circulation of electronic messages is not permitted, whether sent directly to members or by means of social media sites (e.g. Facebook). This does not preclude candidates or their friends seeking support of members in messages that form part of the normal social contact between them. Candidates may also reply to any electronic message they receive.
- 3.3 Posts on websites or blogs that refer to the election do not have to be approved in advance by the Returning Officer. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that nothing that is published online in their name (or in private messages allowed under rule 3.2) could be construed as defamatory or whose publication could bring the Party or any of its members into disrepute.

4. Endorsements

- 4.1 A candidate must get the prior written consent of any person whose name, or photograph, is to appear in the candidate's election address, either as a supporter or otherwise. This requirement extends also to any verbal, written or online communication provided for in rules 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.

5. Breach of rules and appeals

- 5.1 In the event of a breach of these rules, the Returning Officer has the power to order such remedy as he deems appropriate. This includes the authority to disqualify a candidate before the declaration of the result, or remove from office a person who has been elected if, in the Returning Officer's opinion, it is justified by the seriousness of the breach.
- 5.2 Any Party member may make a complaint about an infringement of these rules, or about the content of posts on websites or blogs, at any time up to fourteen days after the declaration of the results. Complaints must be made to the Returning Officer in writing and specify the nature of the infringement. The Returning Officer will consider the complaint along with supporting evidence and any response made by the candidate complained of, and advise both parties of his ruling.
- 5.3 Appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer must be referred to the Appeals Tribunal in terms of section K of the Constitution and should be lodged within fourteen days of the Returning Officer's decision.