

Rules for the 2021 election for Deputy Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

Adopted by the Scottish Party Executive 21/09/21.

1. Nominations/General

1.1 These Rules shall apply to the election being held in accordance with Section F of the Constitution. *F6 Nominations for any of the Office Bearer posts shall be by not less than thirty members of the Party of whom not more than five shall be members of the same Local Party. F7. Nominations for the Leader must be proposed by at least ten percent of the Scottish Liberal Democrat members of the Scottish Parliament. Nominations for the Deputy Leader must be proposed by at least ten percent of the Scottish Liberal Democrat members of the House of Commons representing Scottish constituencies.*

Nominations shall be submitted to the Returning Officer in accordance with the timetable agreed by the Executive.

1.2 The conduct of the election shall be the responsibility of the Returning Officer as provided for under Clause 2 of Section E of the Constitution.

1.3 Clause 8 of Section C of the Constitution provides for the confidentiality of the Membership List and its use for Party purposes only. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of members will be available to candidates for the purpose of sending out one additional piece of literature or canvassing on the doorstep or telephoning.

1.4 Party or Federal Party employees shall not take part in the election, except for exercising their right to vote, and shall maintain a strict neutrality as between candidates from the date nominations are called for.

1.5 Office Bearers, acting in their capacity as Office Bearers, are expected, as far as possible, to give equal opportunities and fair balance to all candidates.

1.6 In the event that only one nomination is received for the position of Deputy Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, that individual will be appointed as deputy leader uncontested upon the day of the closing of nominations.

2. Canvassing and Publicity

2.1 All written or digital material used by the candidates or anybody appointed to act on their behalf should first be submitted to the Returning Officer for approval.

2.2 An expenditure limit of £2,500 (excluding travelling expenses) shall be set for each candidate's campaign.

2.3 Candidates shall be offered the facility of two E-mails to be sent out from Party HQ at times of their choosing to members with known E-mail addresses.

3. Party Facilities for an Election Address.

3.1 All candidates shall be offered the facility of an election address to be included in the mailing of ballot papers. This should be A4 size, folded in half. It may be coloured or black and white and may be printed on both sides. Candidates must supply a copy ready proof of their election address to the Returning Officer by the deadline set by the Returning Officer.

3.2 If the name of any person, other than the candidate, is to be included in any written or electronic communication sent to members, either as a sponsor or otherwise, then the candidate should obtain the prior consent of that person to the inclusion of their name in the context in which it appears.

3.3 Such material must not contain any statement that, in the opinion of the Returning Officer, could be construed as defamatory.

3.4 Candidates, or anyone acting on their behalf, cannot send bulk unsolicited email or SMS messages to members.

3.5 Candidates, or anyone acting on their behalf, cannot email members directly except to reply to an email from or with the consent of that member.

3.6 Liberal Democrat Scotland Facebook Group. Each candidate is allowed one post during the campaign period. If others abuse the group by posting repeated support for a candidate, the administrator will stop them.

4. Breach of Rules and Appeals

4.1 In the event of a breach of these rules, The Returning Officer shall have the power to order such remedial action as they deem appropriate. In extreme cases this may include the disqualification of the candidate.

4.2 Any Party member may lodge, in writing, a formal complaint of infringement of the Election Rules at any time up to fourteen days after the declaration. The written complaint should be addressed to the Returning Officer specifying in detail the nature of the infringement. The Returning Officer shall then consider whether there is sufficient grounds and evidence to uphold the complaint and deliver a ruling thereon.

4.3 Appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer must be referred to the Appeals Tribunal in terms of Section K of the Constitution and lodged within fourteen days of the Returning Officer's decision.