

## COMMITTEE ELECTION REGULATIONS<sup>1</sup>

1. The Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall be the Returning Officer. The rules of the Federal appeals panel shall make provision for a process to replace the Chair in this role if necessary. The Chief Executive shall be the Acting Returning Officer. The Deputy Acting Returning Officer will be the Head of Compliance and Constitutional Support. Other Deputy Acting Returning Officers may be appointed if required.
2. The Federal Executive shall draw up a timetable for each year's receipts of nominations, dispatch and return of ballot papers and the counting of the votes for each election covered by these regulations. The Returning Officer may make provision for voters who wish to do so to cast their ballots electronically, and to view the candidates' election addresses electronically. The Returning Officer may carry out electronic communications with the electorate to facilitate the election.
3. Nominations may be submitted by:
  - a) Any Local Party;
  - b) Any Regional Party;
  - c) Any State Party;
  - d) Any Specified Associated Organisations; or
  - e) Any ten party members.

and **must** be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate. For the election of Councillor Reps see rule 15(b).

4. (a) Each candidate shall be entitled to include in the mailing of ballot papers for each election in which he or she is a candidate a personal election address covering up to one side of A5 paper, printed by and at the expense of the Federal Party. Election address artwork in camera ready form as a high resolution PDF or text-only Word document must reach the Acting Returning Officer at an address and by a date to be notified.  
  
(b) The Returning Officer may make provision for voters to view the candidates' election addresses electronically as well as, or instead of, through the postal mailing.  
  
(c) Each candidate shall be responsible for supplying material that verifies, to the satisfaction of the Acting Returning Officer, any statement in his or her personal election address claiming that he or she is endorsed by any individual or organisation. Such material must accompany the candidate's personal election address artwork.  
  
(d) Candidates must not carry out any activities during the election period, which may be viewed as treating.
5. The Returning Officer may make provision for voters who wish to do so to cast their ballots electronically.
6. The names and addresses of party members are confidential and shall not be released for the purposes of the election.
7. (a) No party publication may accept advertisements in support of or in opposition to candidates.  
  
(b) Candidates may not use AdLib to specifically promote their candidacy but all other articles are permissible.

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<sup>1</sup> As amended September 2011. A separate set of regulations apply for Interim Peer Elections.

8. No material published or circulated by or on behalf of a candidate shall defame by name or implication any other candidate and no candidate shall so defame any other candidate in the course of personal canvassing.
9. The Returning Officer shall have the power to disqualify before declaration of the result, or unseat if declared elected, any candidate who is found to be in breach of regulations 4 or 8, but shall not exercise such power without first offering any such candidate the right to make representation, and having regard thereto.
10. All contested elections shall be conducted by secret ballot and the single transferable vote. Counts shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of the Electoral Reform Society's publication *How to Conduct an Election by the Single Transferable Vote*. If the Specified Proportions of men and women are not elected by the operation of the above rules, the Returning Officer shall conduct such further counts as he or she considers necessary and declare elected those members of the under-represented sex and declare not elected those members of the over-represented sex who would or would not have been elected to committees with such larger and smaller numbers of members as would cause the correct number of that sex to be elected.
11. Casual vacancies occurring shall be filled by recounting the original ballot papers in the election, passing over any preferences for any candidate causing a vacancy. If necessary, further counts shall be conducted using the principles set out in regulation 10 to ensure that all candidates originally elected so remain and that the Specified Proportions of men and women are maintained.
12. Any party member may lodge, in writing, a formal complaint of infringement of election regulations forthwith upon becoming aware of any alleged infringement and not more than 21 days after the declaration. The written complaint should be addressed to the Acting Returning Officer and specify in detail the nature of the infringement. The Returning Officer shall then decide, in full consultation with the Acting Returning Officer, whether there is sufficient evidence and grounds to uphold the complaint, but shall not do so without offering any candidate concerned the right to make representations, and having regard thereto.
13. Appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer must be referred to the Federal Appeals Panel within 14 days of the decision. For the purposes of appeals under these regulations the Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall not act as a member of the Federal Appeals Panel, and other Panel members shall appoint one of their number as Acting Chair.
14. If a complaint is made prior to the declaration of the result, the Returning Officer shall have the power to postpone such declaration until the determination of such complaint or, where an appeal is made against his decision, until the determination of such appeal.
15. (a) These Regulations shall be used for the biennial elections to the Federal Executive, Federal Conference Committee, Federal Policy Committee, International Relations Committee and ELDR Delegation.  
  
(b) They shall also be used for the election of Principal Councillor Representatives on the Federal Executive and the Federal Policy Committee except section three shall read: Nominations shall be submitted by any two Principal Councillors with valid membership and must be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate.