

Autumn 2021 Election Rules

Strath Union is committed to running fair and free elections. All candidates should note:

1. Failure to comply with the Election Rules may lead to sanctions or disqualification.
2. Campaigning is defined as any means of public declaration or publicising of a candidacy during the Election period.
3. No public-facing campaigning is permitted until nominations close on Tuesday 2nd November at 12noon. Online campaigning may then commence with physical campaigning permitted from Thursday 4th November.
4. Candidates may only stand for one officer role in the election. This does not include the NUS delegate positions.
5. At all times during the Election, Candidates and members of their Campaign Teams are subject to and expected to act in accordance with Strath Union's [Code of Conduct](#) and with the University's [Dignity and Respect Policy](#).
6. Candidates will be held responsible for the actions of their campaign teams. It is up to candidates to ensure their campaign teams are aware of and follow the rules.

Covid-19 Specific Rules

7. When campaigning, candidates must follow the University of Strathclyde Covid-19 safety measures detailed at <https://www.strath.ac.uk/coronavirus/covidbeyondlevel0/>.
 - This includes including the wearing of face coverings in indoor settings, unless you are exempt.
 - On physical distancing, even though the law does not require a specific distance, the Scottish Government continues to advise that people should keep a reasonable distance from other people and avoid places that are crowded.
 - If anyone indicates they do not wish to be spoken to, you must respect this and move away
8. Candidates may display campaign materials such as posters, banners and t-shirts. However, campaigners are not permitted to distribute any materials such as flyers, consumables or other promotional items.
9. Lecture shout outs are not permitted, including online lectures.

General Campaign Rules

10. Candidates will not be permitted to use any office space or resources such as printers in Strath Union for campaigning purposes. Campaigning within the University Library and other designated limited access areas is also not permitted.
11. Candidates and their supporters must not harass, bully, intimidate, bribe or blackmail students in the pursuit of votes.
12. Campaigners are prohibited from providing a smart device to students in order for them to vote and may not vote on another student's behalf.
13. Sabbatical officers and Strath Union student staff can only campaign if they have taken approved leave in advance to do so.
14. Strath Union staff who are not students are not permitted to be involved in campaigning.

15. The allocated campaign budget is the only money to be spent on campaign activities and the total spent on publicity, including printing and materials purchased, must not exceed this budget. Candidates are not permitted to spend any other funds, including their own money, on materials for the Election campaign. Accurate receipts must be provided for all items before close of polling.
16. Unsolicited e-mails, including any e-mail lists of which you are a member of including Clubs, Societies, Groups and Class lists, may not be used.
17. Candidates should only do what others have had the opportunity to do. This means that any 'sponsorship' or 'favours' that have a value but do not involve candidate expenditure must be available to all candidates in the election.
18. Candidates are precluded from using club, society or group spaces on the John Anderson campus in a way that is not available to all other candidates.
19. Candidates are responsible for their own health and safety and should not undertake any activities which endanger the safety of others. This includes following any safety guidance from the Scottish Government and University of Strathclyde regarding Covid-19.

The Legal Bit

The elections are run under the rules and regulations of Strath Union's Constitution (accessible at <https://www.strathunion.com/about/constitution/>) as agreed by University Court. Nothing in this document can in any way supersede the Constitution.

How Can I Make a Complaint?

Any student who wishes to complain about an issue relating to the Elections (including the conduct of Candidates) must do so via e-mail to strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk. You must stipulate which rule you believe has been breached and include evidence relating to your complaint.

Complaints will be handled confidentially where possible. However, effective investigation may not be possible without sharing details of the complaint, including the complainant's identity, with other relevant individuals.

Complaints made anonymously or without sufficient supporting evidence may not be considered.

To be considered as an Election Complaint, a complaint must be submitted **within 24 hours of the alleged incident having occurred**, or come to light, **and no later than one hour before voting closes** in the relevant election period.

Complaints received after this time may be considered under Strath Union's normal Complaints Procedure but will have no bearing on the outcome of the election.

Handling of Election Complaints

On receipt of a valid Election Complaint, the Deputy Returning Officer (or their nominee) will undertake an investigation, as appropriate.

The Deputy Returning Officer will consider the complaint and any evidence presented and reach a decision on how to proceed in accordance with the Schedules.

Review of Election Complaints

Any complaint about the Deputy Returning Officer shall be addressed by the Returning Officer as will any appeals.

Where a complainant remains dissatisfied with the response they have received, they may request a review of the handling of the complaint by the Returning Officer. Any such request must be made in writing **within 6 hours of issue** of the original response to the complaint.

The Returning Officer may confirm, vary, or overturn the original decision of the Deputy Returning Officer. The Returning Officer's decision shall be final.