

Schedule 1 – Societies

This Schedule applies only to organisations recognised by Strath Union as Societies.

1 Definition

- 1.1 A Society is an Affiliated Membership Organisation established to bring together students around a shared academic, cultural, creative, recreational, political, faith-based, volunteering or social interest.

2 Purpose

- 2.1 Societies exist to:
- Develop shared interests;
 - Organise activities and events;
 - Provide opportunities for participation;
 - Build communities and a sense of belonging around common interests;
 - Provide opportunities for social engagement, leadership, and personal development.

3 Membership

- 3.1 Membership is ordinarily open to all members of Strath Union.
- 3.2 Restrictions on membership may only apply where approved by Strath Union for widening participation or inclusion purposes.
- 3.3 At least 75% of members must be current University of Strathclyde students.

4 Governance

Committee

- 4.1 Societies must comply with the governance requirements set out in the Affiliated Membership Organisations Policy.
- 4.2 Each Society must have:
- a President (or equivalent);
 - a Treasurer; and
 - any additional committee positions considered necessary by the Society.
- 4.3 Committee positions must ordinarily be open to all eligible members of the Society.

5 Society Assemblies

Purpose

- 5.1 The Society Assembly shall comprise all affiliated Societies and provide the principal forum for consultation, discussion and decision-making on matters relating to societies.

Meetings

5.2 Society Assembly meetings shall normally take place four times per academic year. Assemblies shall be open to all affiliated societies and members of the Societies Executive.

Voting

5.3 Each affiliated society shall be entitled to one vote.

5.4 Societies are expected to send a representative to each Society Assembly.

5.5 Failure to attend two or more meetings, unless the Society has provided reasonable justification accepted by Strath Union, may result in sanctions including:

- Temporary suspension of room booking privileges;
- Restrictions on grant access;
- Temporary freezing of society accounts.

Emergency Meetings

5.6 Emergency Society Assemblies may be convened at the request of:

- A majority of the Societies Executive; or
- A majority of affiliated societies.

6 Societies Executive

Composition

6.1 The Societies Executive shall consist of:

- The Activities President; and
- Six elected student members.

Elections

6.2 Societies Executive members, excluding the Activities President, shall be elected at the final Societies Assembly of each academic year.

6.3 Candidates must be current or previous committee members of an affiliated society.

6.4 Societies Executive members shall normally serve a one-year term, aligned with the academic calendar.

6.5 No Societies Executive member may serve more than two full terms in office.

6.6 Any vacancies or unfilled positions shall be filled by election at the next Societies Assembly, with successful candidates taking office immediately and serving until the end of the academic year.

Responsibilities

6.7 The Societies Executive is responsible for making decisions on society matters, including:

- Society affiliations;
- Society name and constitution changes;
- Grant applications.

Meetings

6.8 The quorum for Societies Executive meetings shall be 50% of elected members plus one but must never be less than three.

Conflict of Interest

6.9 Members of the Societies Executive must declare the nature and extent of any direct or indirect interest they have in an affiliated society, supplier, or any matter under consideration.

6.10 Where a member has, or could reasonably be perceived to have, a conflict of interest or conflict of duties, they must:

- Declare the conflict before the matter is considered;
- Take no part in the discussion or decision-making process relating to the matter;
- Not be counted towards the quorum for that item of business; and
- Withdraw for the duration of any vote on the matter and not cast a vote.

7 Society Funding

7.1 Where funding is delegated to the Societies Executive, decisions shall be made in accordance with this Policy and any published grant guidance.

7.2 Each organisation is entitled to one Welcome Grant and one AGM Grant per academic year, subject to Union procedures and deadlines.

7.3 Unused Welcome Grant or AGM Grant funding may be withdrawn according to timelines set by Strath Union.

Schedule 2 – Membership Associations

1 Definition

- 1.1 A Membership Association is an Affiliated Membership Organisation established by, or recognised by, Strath Union to represent, support and foster community amongst a defined category of students.
- 1.2 Membership Associations exist to enhance the student experience of a recognised student community through social, academic, professional, cultural or peer-support activities and by identifying matters affecting their members.

2 Purpose

- 2.1 Membership Associations exist to:
 - Foster a sense of belonging and community amongst their members;
 - Organise activities, events and initiatives that support the interests and wellbeing of their members;
 - Promote opportunities for networking, peer support and personal development;
 - Identify matters affecting their membership and engage constructively with Strath Union to improve the student experience;
 - Encourage participation in the wider activities and democratic life of Strath Union.
- 2.2 Membership Associations must operate in a manner that supports the charitable objectives and strategic priorities of Strath Union.

3 Membership

- 3.1 Membership must be open to all students who meet the eligibility criteria established for the Association by Strath Union.
- 3.2 Eligibility may be determined by:
 - Programme or mode of study;
 - Student status;
 - Self-identification;
 - Another characteristic approved by Strath Union.
- 3.3 Where membership is based on self-identification, members must not be required to provide evidence of their eligibility.
- 3.4 Membership records must be maintained in accordance with the Affiliated Membership Organisations Policy.

4 Governance

- 4.1 Membership Associations must comply with the governance requirements set out in the Affiliated Membership Organisations Policy.
- 4.2 Each Association must have:
- a Chair (or equivalent);
 - a Treasurer; and
 - any additional committee positions considered necessary by the Association.
- 4.3 Committee positions must ordinarily be open to all eligible members of the Association.

5 Relationship with Strath Union

- 5.1 Membership Associations may raise matters affecting their membership with Strath Union and work collaboratively with Union staff and elected representatives to improve the student experience.
- 5.2 Membership Associations provide a valuable voice for their communities but do not replace or duplicate the representative functions of:
- Strath Union's Elected Officers;
 - Academic Representatives including Programme, Department, or Faculty Representatives; or
 - any other representative structures established by the Union's Constitution or Standing Policies.
- 5.3 Nothing in this Schedule prevents a Membership Association from contributing to consultation exercises, policy development or campaigns led by Strath Union.

6 Affiliation

- 6.1 Applications for recognition as a Membership Association shall be determined by Strath Union in accordance with the Affiliated Membership Organisations Policy.
- 6.2 In considering an application, Strath Union shall have regard to:
- Whether the proposed Association serves a clearly defined student community;
 - Whether there is sufficient evidence of student demand;
 - Whether the proposed aims and objectives align with Strath Union's charitable purposes and strategic priorities; and
 - Whether the proposed Association substantially duplicates the purpose of an existing Affiliated Membership Organisation or representative structure.

7 Support and Oversight

- 7.1 Membership Associations shall have access to resources, training, finance systems and support available under the Affiliated Membership Organisations Policy.

- 7.2 Strath Union may establish additional support arrangements, forums or engagement mechanisms for Membership Associations where considered appropriate.

8 Additional Provisions

- 8.1 Where Strath Union considers it necessary to ensure the continued support or representation of a recognised student community, it may:
- establish a Membership Association;
 - maintain the affiliation of a Membership Association notwithstanding the annual re-affiliation process; or
 - impose additional conditions of affiliation appropriate to the Association's purpose.

Schedule 3 – Action Groups

1 Definition

- 1.1 An Action Group is an Affiliated Membership Organisation established to enable students to organise collectively around a defined issue, campaign or objective.
- 1.2 Action Groups provide students with opportunities to research issues, develop campaigns, organise activities and advocate for positive change within the University, the wider community or society, in a manner consistent with the charitable purposes of Strath Union.
- 1.3 Action Groups are distinct from Societies and Membership Associations. They exist to pursue a defined purpose or campaign rather than to provide ongoing membership activities centred around a shared interest or student community.

2 Purpose

- 2.1 Action Groups exist to:
 - Identify issues affecting students or wider society;
 - Organise campaigns and activities that promote positive change;
 - Undertake research and gather evidence to inform campaigns;
 - Raise awareness of issues affecting students;
 - Encourage student participation in civic engagement and democratic activity;
 - Work collaboratively with Strath Union, students and external partners where appropriate.

3 Principles

- 3.1 Action Groups must operate in accordance with the following principles:
 - Student leadership;
 - Peaceful and lawful campaigning;
 - Respect for differing opinions;
 - Evidence-informed campaigning;
 - Equality, diversity and inclusion;
 - Compliance with Strath Union's charitable purposes and governing documents.
- 3.2 Action Groups must not undertake activities that are unlawful or which place Strath Union in breach of charity law or any legal obligation.

4 Membership

- 4.1 Membership must ordinarily be open to all members of Strath Union.

- 4.2 Where an Action Group exists to campaign on issues affecting a particular student community, participation should remain open wherever reasonably practicable while ensuring those directly affected are central to the Group's work.
- 4.3 Membership must be administered through Strath Union systems.

5 Leadership

- 5.1 Each Action Group must appoint, at minimum:
- a Lead Organiser (or Chair, or equivalent); and
 - one additional student organiser.
- 5.2 Action Groups are not required to appoint a Treasurer unless they intend to apply for funding or manage expenditure.
- 5.3 Leadership appointments must be made through fair and democratic processes approved by Strath Union.

6 Campaign Objectives

- 6.1 Action Groups must maintain a clear statement of:
- Their aims and objectives;
 - Campaign priorities;
 - Planned activities; and
 - Intended outcomes.
- 6.2 Campaign objectives must be submitted to Strath Union for approval and should be reviewed regularly to ensure they remain relevant and achievable.
- 6.3 Where an Action Group has achieved its objectives or is no longer active, Strath Union may review its continued affiliation.

7 Activities

- 7.1 Action Groups may undertake activities including:
- Awareness campaigns;
 - Consultations;
 - Surveys and research;
 - Petitions;
 - Meetings and discussions;
 - Educational events;
 - Demonstrations or public events;

- Collaboration with other student groups;
- Submission of policy proposals through the Union's democratic structures.

7.2 Activities must comply with all Strath Union policies and applicable legislation.

8 Campaigning and Political Activity

8.1 Action Groups may campaign on issues affecting students and matters relevant to the charitable purposes of Strath Union.

8.2 Campaigns must:

- Be lawful;
- Be evidence-based where factual claims are made;
- Respect the rights of others to participate or disagree;
- Not present the views of the Action Group as official Strath Union policy unless adopted through the Union's democratic procedures.

8.3 Where activities may involve external organisations, political parties, elected representatives or public bodies, Action Groups must consult with Strath Union in advance where required by Union procedures.

9 Risk Management

9.1 Action Groups must complete any risk assessments required by Strath Union before undertaking activities.

9.2 Where activities involve demonstrations, public events, external speakers or activities away from campus, additional approval or documentation may be required.

9.3 Strath Union reserves the right to impose conditions or restrictions where this is necessary to protect participants, comply with legal obligations or manage reputational risk.

10 Finance

10.1 Action Groups may apply for funding where funding opportunities are made available by Strath Union.

10.2 Any expenditure must comply with the Financial Regulations contained within the Affiliated Membership Organisations Policy.

10.3 Action Groups must not establish independent bank accounts or hold funds outside Strath Union systems.

11 Communications

11.1 Action Groups may use Union systems and other appropriate communication platforms to engage members and promote their activities.

11.2 All communications must:

- Comply with the Code of Conduct;
- Comply with applicable law;
- Be respectful and evidence-based;
- Clearly distinguish between Action Group views and official Strath Union policy where appropriate.

12 External Relationships

12.1 Action Groups may collaborate with charities, community organisations, trade unions, campaign groups or public bodies where such collaboration supports their objectives and is consistent with Union policy.

12.2 No external organisation may direct or control the activities, decision-making or governance of an Action Group.

12.3 Any formal partnerships or funding arrangements must be approved by Strath Union.

13 Review and Dissolution

13.1 Strath Union may review the affiliation of an Action Group where:

- Its objectives have been achieved;
- It has become inactive;
- It no longer aligns with the charitable purposes or strategic priorities of Strath Union;
- It breaches Union policy.

13.2 Following consultation with the Action Group, Strath Union may withdraw affiliation in accordance with the Affiliated Membership Organisations Policy.