University of Wolverhampton Students' Union

ELECTIONS RULES

Any breach of the Elections Rules could result in disciplinary action being taken against you by the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO). The DRO reserves the right to distribute sanctions that are deemed to be fair and equivalent to any breach of the Elections Rules.

We expect candidates to behave civilly and honestly and to ensure that they support this. We ask all candidates to read the Elections Rules and sign it before campaigning starts to show you are aware that you will be held liable for your own and your slate's actions.

Wolves SU aims to:

1. Conduct all elections in a fair, equal, and appropriate manner.
2. Ensure all student members, whose principal relationship at Wolves SU is not as a staff member, have the opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of the election.
3. Conduct the elections in the spirit of cooperation and friendliness.

Requirements

1. All candidates must be eligible to stand in the elections and agree to adhere to the Elections Rules, signing and returning this before campaigning starts.
    a. To be eligible to stand in the election, you must be a current student at the University of Wolverhampton.
2. All candidates must attend a training session with the elections team before the campaigning period begins.

Conduct

- Candidates should remain respectful of all staff, students and others throughout the elections process.
- Candidates cannot campaign when on duty either as a member of Union or University staff.
- Candidates must not communicate or interfere with voters in any way once they have begun to complete their voting ballot. This includes voting on behalf of a student or offering their own personal electronic device to voters to use to cast a ballot.
- Candidates must not engage in any form of harassment towards students or staff. Any behaviour that could reasonably be considered harassment may result in disqualification.
    - For the avoidance of doubt, an account of the incident provided by the student or staff member involved may be sufficient evidence for the DRO to disqualify a candidate.

Campaigning

- Candidates may only begin campaigning once they have fulfilled all requirements to stand in the election and the official campaigning period has opened.
- Candidates may only alter, move or remove their own, or their slate's, campaign materials.
- The SU reserves the right to declare 'campaign free zones' where no candidate and/or their supporters/team will be able to campaign or distribute promotional materials.
    - Any area within 5 metres of any polling station will always be a campaign free zone.
- Candidates must remove any of their campaign materials after the close of voting.
- All candidates are responsible for ensuring they have permission to post publicity or to canvass in specified areas.
- Candidates are allowed to run in a slate.
    - A slate is a team of two or more candidates running jointly for different positions.

  - A slate must be declared to the DRO before campaigning begins.
  - Candidates within a declared slate will be held jointly responsible for any breach of the Elections Rules by another member of the slate, and sanctions may be applied to all members of the slate.
- Candidates and their slate are not allowed to distribute flyers or any other printed or paper-based campaign materials directly to students.
- Candidates may display a maximum of 40 posters. All posters will be printed by the elections team and must be stamped by the DRO before being displayed. Any posters over this limit, or which have not been stamped, will be removed and will result in a sanction.
  - All campaign materials, whether printed or digital, must be signed off by the DRO before being used. Failure to do so will result in the material being taken down and a possible sanction.
- Student groups may endorse any number of candidates during the election. Where a candidate is a member of the student group's committee, this must be clearly stated as part of the endorsement.
- Candidates are not allowed to have a campaign team. Campaigning activity may only be carried out by the candidate themselves or other candidates within their declared slate.
- Candidates may give campaign shoutouts during lectures or teaching sessions with the permission of the lecturer. Any shoutouts must be kept brief and to a minimum to avoid disrupting teaching time. The decision to allow a shoutout is entirely at the discretion of the lecturer.

Budget

- No candidate may spend more than £30 on their campaign. This includes items, materials or services already owned by the candidate, which will be valued at their commercial value and counted towards the £30 budget.
  - Candidates running as part of a slate will have a combined campaign budget of £25 per candidate. For example, a slate of two candidates will have a combined campaign budget of £50, while a slate of three candidates will have a combined campaign budget of £75. Candidates must not exceed the allocated campaign budget by using their own funds or any additional sources of funding.
- All costs must be declared with receipts before the deadline to receive reimbursement. Failure to do so can result in disqualification.
- Candidates cannot use the Wolves SU or University logos in any promotional material.

Complaints and Appeals

- If you wish to complain or raise a concern about a candidate or their slate, please contact elections.wolvesunion@wlv.ac.uk
- In the event of a candidate wishing to appeal a decision made by the Deputy Returning Officer they may contact the Returning Officer through the following email elections@nus.org.uk.
- Candidates have 60 minutes after the close of voting to submit any complaints or appeals regarding the election. Complaints/Appeals after this time will not be actioned.

I agree to abide by all the above Elections Rules and understand that any breach of the above by me and/or by the slate that I am in may result in sanctions and/or disqualification	
Signature	

University of Wolverhampton Students' Union

Name	
Date	
Position	